

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Up the line British Rail's plan for the next five years is unveiled Under the sun



Everything you want to know about Chad and the Gaddafi connexion In the rough The opening round of the Benson and Hedges Golf tournament Down South President Reagan is wooing the Hispanics - but not with much success On the tube The advertisers battle to muscle in on cable TV All at sea Friday Page meets the Wren with the Nelson touch

Trial ruling in 'glue kit' case

A High Court judge in Edinburgh has ruled that two shopkeepers should stand trial for allegedly supplying "glue sniffing kits" - solvents and containers - to children aged between eight and 15 despite pleas that it is not a crime under Scottish law Page 3

Express group stake bought

Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier, has bought 3 per cent of Fleet Holdings, publisher of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star. His stake exceeds that of Lord Matthews, the group's chairman Page 13

Rail chaos

Rail commuters from south London, Kent and Sussex face serious disruption today as engineers continue repairing fire-damaged signal cables Page 2

Gershwin dies

Ira Gershwin, who wrote the words for the songs of his brother George and other leading composers, died aged 86 in his California home

Ulster 'bias'

A United States congressman on a fact-finding visit says that he has found evidence of American companies discriminating against Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland Page 2

Andropov offer

President Andropov told the US that Russia would pursue a constructive and flexible line at the Geneva arms talks until the December when Nato is due to deploy new missiles in Europe Page 5

No to 'moles'

Bl has rejected union demands to reinstate the 13 alleged left-wing infiltrators at Cowley and made clear that further attempts at reinstatement would fail Page 2

Final day

Somerset, who beat Middlesex losing fewer wickets in a thrilling match, meet Kent, who triumphed over Hampshire, in the NatWest Trophy final on September 3 Page 16

Leader page 9 Letters: On the Cowley 13, from Ms Lynne Amidon and others; and Mr E. S. Cole; Youth Training Scheme, from Mr D. Young, and Mr M. Howard, QC, MP, Bolton House, from Mr P. Hoos Leading articles: Soviet challenge, Moles, TV and the Church Features, pages 6 and 8 Can MacGregor deliver coal? The Scottish devolution debate rumbles on; The other risk in Nkomo's return; Spectrum: Profile of Lord Goodman Books, page 7 Edward Mortimer and Michael Adams review new books on the background to the Lebanese conflict; Byron Rogers looks at the career of "The Golden Duke of Westminster"; and Andrew Cimson reads new fiction

Obituary, page 10 Mr Ian Naffin, Mr Humphrey Slade, Mr Benjamin V. Cohen

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Pay rises at lowest level for 16 years

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Government hopes of keeping inflation down received a boost from new figures which show wage rises at their lowest for 16 years. Average earnings figures for June published yesterday by the Department of Employment, show an underlying increase of 7 per cent over the previous 12 months. This was the smallest rise since the end of 1967, when earnings were increasing at a little under 6 per cent. However, the good news on pay rises was accompanied by evidence that the economic recovery has remained sluggish and there was almost no growth in the economy between the first and second quarters of this year. Provisional figures reveal a rise in output of only 0.2 per cent between the first and second quarters, although output in the second quarter was 6 per cent since the start of this year. The Government's figures, which include bonus and overtime pay, are not so up-to-date, but the Department of Employment expects the rate of growth in earnings to slow to below 7 per cent. The official index of average earnings, which includes back pay and other distortions, rose by 7.7 per cent in the latest 12 months, compared with 8.4 per cent in the year to May. Someone on average earnings of about £3,250 at the start of 1976 (when the present index began) would need to be earning £7,850 now to keep pace with the rise in the index. Although the slowdown is welcome news for the Government, ministers have already stressed the need for lower settlements in the coming pay round. Earnings are still growing much faster than the increase in prices. Inflation was running at 3.7 per cent in June - far less than the growth in earnings. This means that living standards for those in work have been rising. But with inflation edging higher, the gap between pay and prices is expected to narrow this year. Falling pay settlements have also helped to improve Britain's competitiveness against its big trading partners. Wages per unit of output in manufacturing industry fell by 2.4 per cent in the second quarter of this year. This was the lowest rise since 1970 and compares with latest figures for Germany and the United States of 2 per cent, 7 per cent for Japan and 16 per cent for the engineering industry in France. However, any optimism over improved competitiveness will be tempered by the disappointing second quarter output figures published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office. Taken with last week's poor industrial production figures for June showing an unexpected fall in activity, the output measure is likely to encourage speculation that the economic recovery is faltering. However, the Treasury said yesterday that the C.S.O. figures were in line with the view that the moderate recovery in the economy was continuing.

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Whole economy, seasonally adjusted			
Index	% change	Under-100	% change
Jan 1976=100	Jan 1976=100	Jan 1976=100	Jan 1976=100
1982			
May	222.5	10.4	10
June	226.0	9.8	9
July	230.3	11.0	9
Aug	226.9	7.8	8
Sept	228.1	8.8	8
Oct	228.0	7.3	8
Nov	232.2	8.4	8
Dec	238.8	7.7	8
1983			
Jan	232.4	8.6	7
Feb	237.1	9.3	7
Mar	238.2	8.4	7
Apr	237.7	8.2	7
May	242.1	8.4	7
June	243.5	7.7	7

Source: Department of Employment

still 1.5 per cent higher than in the same period a year ago. The latest earnings figures, which show a steady drop in pay settlements as companies have fought to control costs and regain international competitiveness, pay settlements in the public sector have also been kept down. The Confederation of British Industry confirmed the trend yesterday. It said that pay settlements in manufacturing industry, which have been falling for almost three years, have averaged between 5.5 and

New boundaries for EEC election

By Stephen Goodwin

Next June's elections to the European Parliament will almost certainly be fought on new constituency boundaries. The British Government favours early introduction of the new boundaries and the main political parties see little scope for objection to the proposed revisions. Until the end of last month, the parties had been expecting to fight the June 14 election on the present boundaries and MEPs most of them Conservatives, were dismayed to find this is unlikely to be the case. The Boundary Commission's proposals, published three weeks ago, reflect the changes in Westminster seats on which the June election was fought and earlier local government area revisions. Objections to the new boundaries would strictly be lodged by local authorities or bodies representing 500 or more electors by August 28, though the commission has said that it will accept representations received a few days after the closing date. The early publication of the commission's proposals in the middle of the holiday season caught constituencies on the hop, however the area for objections is somewhat circumscribed. The commission is said to be accepting only objections

about the size of constituencies, not about "community of interest", as is the case for Westminster seats. This should reduce the need for local inquiries to be held. The commission is telling interested parties, such as electoral registration officers, that it is "proceeding with the review without delay and in the hope that the new Assembly constituencies will come into operation in time for the next elections". Parliament will have to approve the boundaries in their final form but with the Government keen to have them in force for June 14 this should prove no obstacle. The number of Euro seats will remain unchanged with 66 in England, four in Wales and eight in Scotland. Sixty of the seats are held by Conservatives and the changed boundaries are not expected substantially to affect this balance. Labour's Euro campaign committee, chaired by Mr Michael Foot, will hold its first meeting on September 13. It will be considering a manifesto for the elections and the preparation of publicity material. Before the end of the year the party has to spend a £294,000 grant available to it from the European Parliament for advance publicity.

2,000 evacuated in wake of 80mph storm

Galveston, Texas (Reuter) - Civil Defence officials began evacuating nearly 2,000 people from Galveston Island yesterday as hurricane Alicia bore down on the Texas coast from the Gulf of Mexico. Hundreds of workers were evacuated from oil rigs and coastal evacuation plans went into effect on Tuesday night when Alicia was upgraded from a Tropical storm. A National Weather Service official said that if the hurricane, with winds exceeding 80mph continued on its present course, it could hit land today. Shell has evacuated 890 workers from 82 platforms

Falling profits put holiday firms at risk

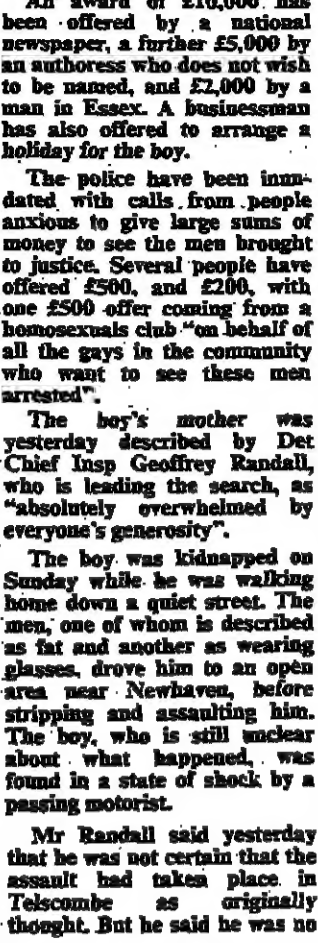
By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

A warning that some package holiday companies were at risk was served yesterday by Mr Bruce Tanner, the chairman of Birmingham-based Horizon Travel, Britain's third largest tour operator. His warning came as Horizon itself reported pre-tax profits down by two-thirds in its first half-year operations to the end of May. Industry leaders like Thomson Holidays (the biggest operator), Intasun Leisure (the second largest) and Horizon account for the lion's share of what profits are still being made in an industry where pressures on profit margins are growing, especially with the current price-war now extending into next winter's holidays. Among the top 30 tour operators losses overall had risen from £2.5m in 1981 to £9.9m last year, Mr Tanner said. He added: "The figures will be worse this year. A shake-out seems inevitable." Horizon, which has stood aside from the price-cutting this summer, is likely to carry 5 per cent fewer holidaymakers during the summer season, Mr Tanner said. The City is expecting Horizon's full year pre-tax profits to the end of November to plunge from last year's £14.3m to as little as £1.2m. This has happened to what until now has been claimed to be the most profitable package holiday company among the industry leaders. The fall in profits at Horizon happened despite good trading during last winter, the period mostly reflected in the results announced yesterday. Special reasons put forward for the profits decline were that there had been increases on depreciation charges for aircraft operated by Horizon's own airline, Orion. What is hitting Horizon's performance this summer is Thomson's bringing out a mid-bookings season brochure re-print with summer prices generally competitive with Intasun. Traditionally Thomson and Horizon have set a more up-market quality costing pat-

£30,000 reward in sex hunt

By a Staff Reporter

Reward money offered by members of the public for information leading to the capture of the three men who kidnapped and sexually assaulted a boy aged six in Brighton, rose last night to £30,000. An award of £10,000 has been offered by a national newspaper, a further £5,000 by an author who does not wish to be named, and £2,000 by a man in Essex. A businessman has also offered to arrange a holiday for the boy. The police have been inundated with calls from people anxious to give large sums of money to see the men brought to justice. Several people have offered £500, and £200, with one £500 offer coming from a homosexuals club "on behalf of all the gays in the community who want to see these men arrested". The boy's mother was yesterday described by Det Chief Insp Geoffrey Randall, who is leading the search, as "absolutely overwhelmed by everyone's generosity". The boy was kidnapped on Sunday while he was walking home down a quiet street. The men, one of whom is described as fat and another as wearing glasses, drove him to an open area near Newhaven, before stripping and assaulting him. The boy, who is still under shock, was found in a state of shock by a passing motorist. Mr Randall said yesterday that he was not certain that the search had taken place in Telesome as originally thought. But he said he was not



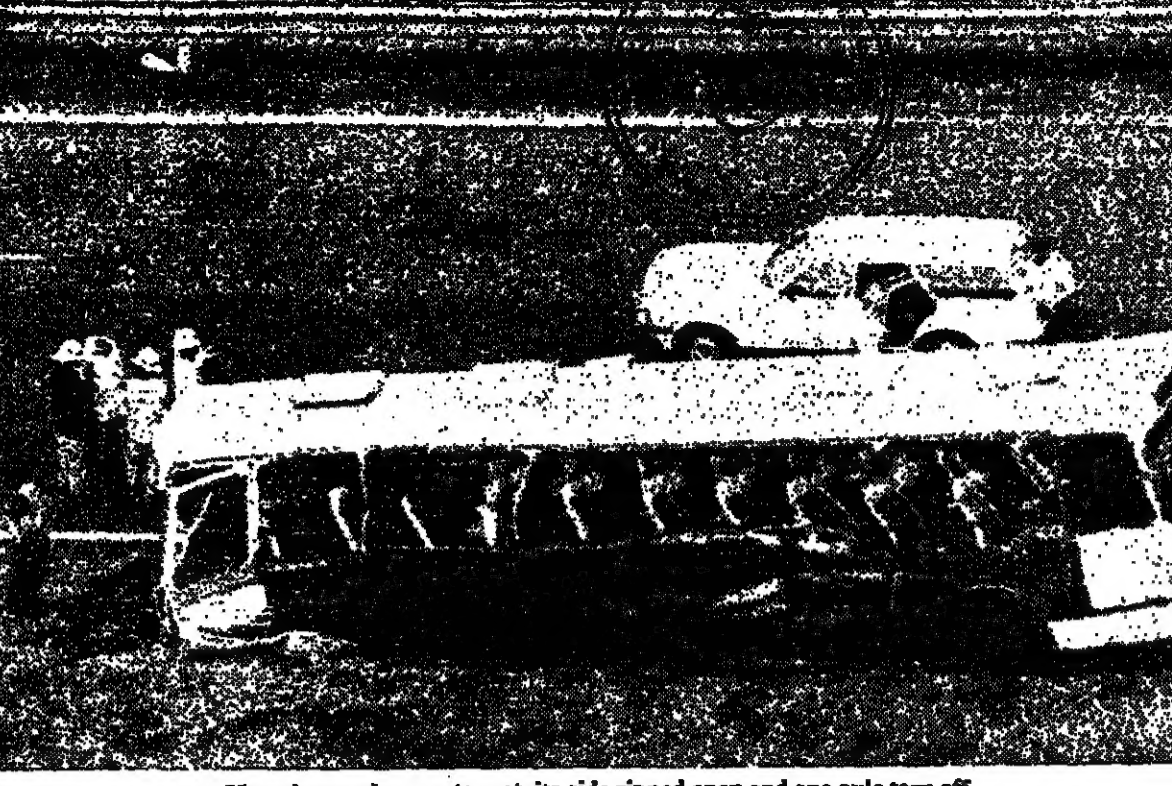
Photograph of boy to be used in the hunt.

nearer establishing the truth of what happened than that night despite taking the boy along the same route on Tuesday. Mr Randall said he was anxious to speak to any member of the homosexual community who might be able to help him in his inquiries. "I know they are feeling very defensive about this incident, because the media have made it look as if we are blaming them. That is not the case at all."

Mr Philip Bakal, manager of the Bolts discotheque in West Street, Bath, said his members were donating £500 on behalf of the homosexual community in Brighton. "The whole gay community is right against these men. Everyone is very upset about it."

Continued on back page, col 1

Three die in M4 lorry-coach crash



How the coach came to rest, its side ripped open and one axle torn off.

By Tim Jones

Three people were killed and 16 injured, four of them critically, when a lorry carrying steel sheets tore through the safety barrier on the M4 near Swindon yesterday, and collided with a National Express coach carrying holidaymakers from Heathrow airport to Bristol and South Wales, slicing one side of the coach open. The accident closed the motorway for 3½ hours, as rescue services ferried shocked, screaming and weeping passengers to safety from the tangled wreckage. Two men were dead on arrival at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon and a third woman died later. There were six children on the coach. A girl was found crying in field and two other passengers were discovered lying in a ditch about 50 yards from the scene. A boy aged 13 months was thrown clear and found on the hard shoulder with only minor injuries. The accident came a week after the Government announced its intention of considering restricting the speed of passenger coaches following a series of crashes involving them. It is believed the coach was travelling at about 60 miles an hour in the central lane. One witness said he heard a loud bang and saw a puff of smoke coming from the lorry just before it shot across the road taking with it a 50-foot section of the central safety barrier. Police were later understood to be working on the theory that one of the lorry's tyres burst. The back axle and wheels of the coach were shorn away. It continued down the motorway for 200 yards on its front wheels sending up a shower of sparks and cutting deep furrows in the road surface. It finally stopped when it hit a safety barrier, perching precariously on its front wheels. Continued on back page, col 3

Smith backs Steel's veto in battle over manifesto

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Cyril Smith, who has been one of the severest critics of Mr David Steel's style of leadership of the Liberal Party, offered yesterday to go to the rostrum at the Liberal assembly in Harrogate next month and back his right to retain a veto over the contents of the general election manifesto. Mr Smith, who is seen as a leading candidate if the party decides to elect a deputy to Mr Steel, said that he agreed absolutely with him on the issue of the manifesto. He believed also that it was an issue on which Mr Steel felt sufficiently strongly to resign if he lost the veto at the assembly. But, said Mr Smith, he did not think that Mr Steel would lose on the issue, or that he was ever in danger of doing so. That was a predominant view among Liberal politicians as they reacted to the report in The Times yesterday that Mr Steel's close colleagues expected him to resign if a move by activists to remove his "final authority" over the contents of the manifesto succeeded. Although some of his col-

leagues saw fit to doubt whether he would go in those circumstances, a statement issued on the Liberal leader's authority in London made no attempt to dismiss the suggestion. Announcing that Mr Steel would be flying to Canada at the weekend for a two-day seminar on defence and foreign policy organized by the Canadian Government, it said that he would be continuing his temporary leave from the leadership, making no speeches and giving no interviews, and it also revealed that Mr Steel and his wife had spent the previous three days at a health spa near their home in Peeblesshire. Mr Smith, whom some MPs believe Mr Steel would welcome as a deputy, said yesterday in a BBC interview that constant suggestions that if Mr Steel did not get his way he would resign tended to stifle discussion. Although he believed Mr Steel's stance on the manifesto was correct there were arguments both ways and it was up to Mr Steel and those who supported him to win the argument.

Lord Grimond, the former Liberal leader, said yesterday that the party leader must retain the last word over the manifesto. He advised against the resignation card being played too often, but said that Mr Steel was perfectly entitled to say that unless he was given the tools, the loyalty and the instruments needed to make a breakthrough in politics then the party must get someone else to have a try. Meanwhile the debate about the future development of the Liberal-SDP Alliance continued yesterday with another distinctive contribution from Mr Michael Meadowcroft, the Liberal MP, who believes that the Alliance should be plunging a furrow well to the left of its present course. The Liberal SDP Alliance has overtaken Labour in a Gallup opinion poll for the Daily Telegraph. Asked how they would vote in a general election, 44.5 per cent said Conservative, 29 per cent the Alliance and 25 per cent Labour. Other parties would get 1.5 per cent support.

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader who claims that none of his men are in Chad, was quoted yesterday as saying in Tunis that he remained in contact with the French Government.

Zimbabwe drops motion to oust Nkomo

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A motion before the Zimbabwe Parliament that Mr Joshua Nkomo's seat be declared vacant was withdrawn yesterday after the Patriotic Front leader took his place in the House of Assembly for the first time since his flight from the country in March. After a speech in which he roundly castigated Mr Nkomo, who he said had done Zimbabwe a disservice by fleeing abroad claiming that his life was in danger, Mr Edmore Zvobgo, the Minister who proposed the motion on August 4, thanked Mr Nkomo for returning and amid roars of laughter from the Government benches withdrew it. Earlier he had conceded that even if the motion was carried, Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front Party would, under the Lancaster House constitution, be able to renominate him to Parliament. The proceedings, which Mr Nkomo had indicated would include an important speech on what he saw as solutions to Zimbabwe's problems, were an anti-climax to his return from exile in Britain on Tuesday. He repeated general appeals on the need for all parties to face up to the troubles - which Mr Zvobgo, the Minister of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, described as "old hat" - and said the reason for his absence from Parliament had been that his life was in danger. Reminded that in January he had accused government troops of killing Mr Josiah Gumede, the country's first black President, he said: "Gumede is alive but 3,000 or more are dead and thousands are maimed."

Winding up the debate, Mr Zvobgo said some MPs had argued against the motion by citing Mr Nkomo's contribution to Zimbabwe's independence. Such a contribution was no licence to abuse a constitutional duty.

Investors Notebook, page 14

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## Trial ordered for two traders accused of supplying glue-sniff kits

By John Witherow

A decision by a High Court judge that selling glue-sniffing materials to children was a crime in Scotland seemed likely yesterday to add fresh impetus to calls for tougher action against solvent abuse in England and Wales.

Lord Avonside, sitting in the High Court in Edinburgh, ruled that two brothers from Glasgow should go on trial for culpable and reckless conduct for allegedly supplying at least 18 children aged between eight and 15 with solvents and containers. Those included crisp packets and plastic bags for inhalation.

He rejected pleas from Mr Khalid Raja, aged 23, and Mr Ahmed Raja, aged 28, both shopkeepers, that it was not a crime under Scottish law, although he granted them leave to appeal to three High Court judges and postponed the trial until October.

Giving his judgment in what is considered a test case, Lord Avonside said that if substances were supplied to another person in full knowledge that that person would use the substance to the danger of his health and life, the supplier had acted criminally.

Scotland recently acquired a new law, the Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Act 1983, intended to combat the alarming rise in



Lord Avonside: Gave go-ahead for appeal.

glue sniffing which has led to truancy, sickness, petty crime and sometimes death among young people. The Act allows for children caught abusing solvents to be referred to a children's panel and if necessary taken into compulsory care.

But the official attitude in England and Wales, according to the Department of Health and Social Security, is against legislation and in favour of education.

None the less the department has been alarmed by the rapid

increase in glue sniffing - 120 people have died from it since 1980 - and has sought advice from social workers, doctors, local authorities and lawyers. These findings are due to be published in the autumn and the Government will then consider if any legislation is necessary or feasible.

One possibility being considered is a ban on sales of glue to young people, although manufacturers point out that that would be unfair to children who want to buy glue.

The manufacturers have said that it is not possible to remove intoxicating fumes from petrol-based glues and solvents.

Some shops have decided independently to control glue sales. The Edinburgh-based retail chain of John Menzies said it would sell only three solvent-based adhesives, each labelled with hazard warnings, and instructed its shops not to sell solvents to anyone aged under 18.

The Department of Health said it had no details of cases of glue sniffing reported to the police in England and Wales. The Scottish Office said that the number of reported cases there had risen from 2,240 in 1979 to 3,312 in 1981. The number of deaths had also increased, from one in 1976 to 14 in 1982.



Play check: Peter John Nicholls, aged four, of Leyton, east London, making a tour of inspection of Lego Wonderland and the mushroom hotel at an exhibition at Selfridges in Oxford Street, London. (Photograph: David Cairns).

## Princess grieves over cat

Princess Michael of Kent's cat has been found dead in a timberyard in Gloucestershire. Mrs Pauline Davis, whose husband, Ronald, runs the yard at Brinscombe, said yesterday that the princess was in tears when she came to collect the body of Kitty. She added: "The princess came down with her gardener to pick up the body. She was in tears as they walked away."

Kitty, a five-year-old neutered tabby, was given to the princess by her husband after their marriage in Vienna. It had been missing from their home at Nether Lyptis, near Stroud, for more than a fortnight, and a reward of £50 had been offered for news of its whereabouts. Mrs Davis, who telephoned the contact number on the cat's collar, said: "The cat had probably been in the yard ever since it was lost. It looked as if it had been knocked over by a car in the narrow lane outside and had come into the yard to die."

## Ex-MP loses court appeal

Mr William Rees-Davies, aged 67, the former Conservative MP for the West, yesterday lost an appeal against an order to improve his flat and let it out. He did not appear at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, London, to argue his case.

A health officer had inspected the flat in a terrace in Cambridge Street, Pimlico, London, after a tenant complained to Westminster City Council, which then ordered Mr Rees-Davies to do "specified repairs".

## Fatal accident ranges reopen

The Ash complex of firing ranges near Aldershot is to be reopened on Saturday following lengthy safety checks after the accidental fatal shooting of a woman searching for rare plants.

But the Stonycastle range which is part of the 11-range complex is to remain closed for the moment. It is near the spot where Mrs Sheel was shot in the head. The Army is examining plans to build a new range there, it is understood.

## Gypsies seek festival grant

Gypsies at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, where factory owners have been withholding their rates in protest at illegal encampments on roadside verges, have asked the city council for a £1,000 grant to help finance a festival highlighting their customs and traditions.

Mrs Gene Barker, leader of the Conservative opposition on the council, said yesterday: "It will be totally irresponsible to make this grant in view of the problems we have had."

## £302,464 pools win 'by mistake'

Mr Carl Herbert, a bookmaker, aged 51, attributes his £302,464 win on Littlewoods football pools to a slip of the pen. Mr Herbert, of Grange-lawn, Cardiff, said: "A customer came into my betting shop and distracted me when I was thinking about the coupon. Normally I always use the same numbers, but my pen slipped and I filled in the blocks two numbers out all through the coupon." He shares the win with his wife and other family members.

## Vitamin E 'no cure' for kidney disease

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

A claim that large doses of vitamin E would cure the kidney illness that has caused two deaths and made 17 children ill in the West Midlands was refuted yesterday.

Dr Richard White, consultant paediatric pathologist at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "It would be quite unjustified to conclude that vitamin E is a miracle cure or anything like it."

It is known that those suffering from haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) in the present outbreak in the Black Country do not suffer from vitamin E deficiency but have been given doses of it.

A woman aged 59 and a girl aged two have died during the outbreak. The other children are seriously ill in Birmingham hospitals and others are on kidney dialysis machines.

Dr White said treatment of children suffering from HUS by giving them vitamin E would need to be conducted for years with a number of patients before a proper assessment could be made.

Contact with a children's hospital at Melbourne, Australia, allowed a pooling of results. From that treatment over the past two years there had been a slightly lower mortality than in previous years when vitamin E was not part of the treatment.

There had been cases in Britain since the 1960s. It affected small clusters of children in local areas with peak

incidents in the summer. "This suggests there may be an infective agent such as a virus and that some people are more susceptible than others. It is the main subject of research."

Dr White said the question of vitamin E had been raised as a theoretically beneficial treatment and "one which we are willing to give because there are no significant side-effects which might be harmful."

It is based on experimental evidence that it will inhibit factors that lead to the breaking down of the red blood cells. We have been using it for one year and Melbourne for two years. He said that when vitamin E had been given a smaller proportion of children seemed to have developed chronic renal complications. "But" on the small number of patients treated this is not conclusive evidence and we are not claiming this is the treatment of the future.

At the Centre for Applied Microbiology, Science at Porton Down, it was said that no progress had been made in isolating the suspected virus.

Dr Peter Sutton, the director, said the cultures were set up but nothing had been grown. "The one thing we are sure about is that we do not know where the answer is. You have to give these things time because if it is a virus it may take time to adapt itself to the growth conditions."

## Countryside watchdog groups on alert

By a Staff Reporter

A national network of countryside action groups is being set up by Friends of the Earth as part of what it describes as its most important campaign yet to protect Britain's landscape and wildlife habitats.

About 60 groups have been formed over the past month to report when hedgerows are removed, meadows and moorland ploughed, marshes drained, woods cleared, or other changes imposed on the countryside. Members have also been asked to record illnesses where pesticides have been sprayed.

Details will be kept centrally by Friends of the Earth as evidence for its claim that the Wildlife and Countryside Act has failed and needs to be replaced by a new, tighter National Heritage Act to control the impact of farming,

forestry and waterway operations. Announcing the campaign yesterday, Mr Christopher Rose, the conservation group's countryside campaigner, said the teams were being established because the Nature Conservancy Council, the official conservation watchdog body, lacked the time and money to check on the destruction of sensitive sites. "We are filling a vacuum," he said.

Nine examples have been singled out by Friends of the Earth to support its contention that the "heart of our countryside is being ripped out."

Those include coastal marshes in Essex, Lincolnshire and Norfolk; a 20-acre ancient woodland in green belt at Newdigate Cope in Surrey and the last unreclaimed part of the Tees Estuary at Seal Sands.

Mr Rose said people should

## Third of depressives 'will attempt suicide'

By David Nicholson-Lord

Almost a third of the one million people estimated to be suffering from depression in Britain are likely to attempt suicide, according to a survey published yesterday.

The survey, carried out by Taylor Nelson Medical, a market research company whose clients include many large drug companies, says that 29 per cent of depression patients are suicide risks.

Of these, 9 per cent had already attempted suicide, 17 per cent were "quite likely" to do so, and three per cent were thought to be "very likely".

Middle-aged housewives were those at greatest risk and domestic or marital problems the single most common cause (23 per cent of cases), the survey found. But there was no evidence that increased unemployment had led to a worsening of the country's mental health.

Researchers studied medical histories of nearly 2,500 patients being treated for various forms of mental

disorder and interviewed more than 600 doctors. Other common reasons for mental disorder, the survey found, were personality problems (16 per cent) and bereavement (10 per cent).

It found that depression had increased among patients being treated for mental disorder, defined by doctors to include conditions like anxiety or insomnia. Fifty-four per cent of patients now suffered an element of depression, compared with 51 per cent in a similar survey two years ago.

According to Dr David Holmes, the company's managing director, the number of people estimated to suffer from depression in Britain could be as high as two million.

Non-manual workers under stress and elderly people who have difficulty sleeping were found to be among those likely to suffer from depression. The survey reaffirmed previous findings that men tend not to visit their doctor if they have mental health problems.

## Post-mortem plea on drug dealer

The New Zealand High Commission in London has asked for a second post-mortem examination of the body of Terry Sinclair, reputed leader of an international drug syndicate.

The Isle of Wight coroner, Mr Keith Chesterton, refused on Tuesday to release the body of Mr Sinclair, aged 38, who collapsed and died in Parkhurst prison until further tests were made on specimens from his body at police laboratories at Aldermaston.

A first post-mortem examination was made last Friday by a Home Office pathologist but Tuesday's inquest was adjourned until September 20. Sinclair was known to have many enemies in the drugs



Terry Sinclair: Death in prison.

world. He was also reported to have been ready to name names and disclose links between drugs dealing and the IRA's arms buying. He was serving a life sentence for the "handless corpse" murder of Martin Johnson, an heroin dealer.

A New Zealand MP has described Sinclair's death in Parkhurst, in front of other prisoners while on his way to lunch, as "extremely suspicious". That prompted New Zealand's Justice Minister, Mr Jim McLeay, to ask the High Commission to request a second post-mortem to be done.

He said the New Zealand Justice Ministry had no evidence indicating foul play as such, but wanted to investigate "every possible line of inquiry".

The £18m worth of equipment has been bought from the Anglo-US partnership GEC-Jerrold, Texcan, an American company operating in Britain, and another transatlantic consortium, Rascal-Oak. About two million homes in the United Kingdom are already cabled for television but principally as an aid to reception. About 400,000 are involved in an experiment where a feature film pay channel is on offer.

The new networks will have about thirty channels of which 20 will be devoted to entertainment and the others "interactive services" which allow the cable television subscriber to shop, vote and bank from his or her armchair.

British Telecom has set up a division to coordinate the corporation's activities in cable television. The group consists of 20 professionals in commerce, finance and marketing which will negotiate with the companies awarded cable television franchises.

## How pupils can appeal against the GCE verdict

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A level results arrive today in schools all over England and Wales and students will know whether they have attained the increasingly high grades needed for university or college place.

Next Wednesday all O level results will be by first-class post to schools for their nervous recipients to open. Whether they can go on to do A levels and other courses depends on those results, but how many candidates are aware that they can appeal against the grades awarded?

Over the past decade examination boards have been introducing systems for checking marks and grades. Most do it for a fee and results are sometimes changed. Last summer the London board made 252 changes at O and A level, the Oxford delegacy made 60 changes and the Joint Matriculation Board in Manchester 206.

Each board has a different system, but all require that the application for a re-mark or an arithmetical check is made by the head teacher of the school and that reasons are given for the appeal. If a result is changed after a check, the fee is returned. In London an arithmetical check costs £4.50 for each application, a clerical check and a re-mark costs £8 at O level and £15 at A level and these two checks plus a report from the chief examiner costs £15 for an O level and £25 for an A level.

Of the 252 grade changes (143 were for O levels and 109 for A levels), altogether there were 4,300 appeals for checks in London out of a candidate population of 250,000.

The Joint Oxford and Cambridge board performs the rechecking free. Mr Howard King, its secretary, said: "We do not wish the parents' purse to

determine whether a review can be made or not."

All examining bodies emphasize that they have complicated systems for marking papers and checking each year and that the grades are adjusted to ensure consistency between examiners and between years.

Examination questions for the Manchester board, for example, are worked out six to nine months before the examination and changed after consultation with teachers. A scheme of marking is worked out and

Parents or students who are concerned about this year's O or A level grades may ask the head teacher of the school to request a recheck or a re-mark of examination scripts.

Most examining bodies charge a fee for this, depending on what is required, and if a mistake is found this money is returned. Last year examination boards received hundreds of appeals and made several changes resulting in higher grades for students.

When examiners receive the scripts they look at only a few to start with and make notes.

They are then called in to a day-long meeting at headquarters where they mark scripts together and separately, and the results are discussed. They are then free to do the marking.

After that there is another meeting to discuss general questions such as the quality of the candidates that year and the difficulty of the questions. That is followed by decisions of where to set the grade boundaries in relation to the marks.

After that examiners carry out a borderline review of candidates who have fallen below those critical boundaries.

## Valid passport gives man's age as 159

Mr Sayed Abdul Mabood caused a stir at Heathrow airport yesterday when he checked in for a flight to Chicago. According to his passport he is almost 160 years old.

Airline staff queried Mr Mabood's date of birth, given as December 13, 1823, with his younger travelling companion, Mr Amir Suhan Malik, who told them: "There is no doubt. It is absolutely genuine."

When Mr Mabood was taken in a wheelchair through the controls in terminal 3, immigration officers gathered round him to check the passport. They found that it was genuine and the date of birth had been stamped by officials in Pakistan.

Mr Malik said: "I realize it must be difficult for people to accept, but this is no fake. Mr Mabood is a well respected

Muslim holy man in Pakistan, known to all the government and religious leaders. He is a man of great wisdom. People go to him for an answer to their problems and he always knows how to help."

Mr Malik, who described himself as a spiritual follower of the holy man, said: "He was born in Iraq and later moved to India. He has travelled throughout the world spreading the word of Islam. The secret of his long life is in his faith. He has led a perfectly normal life."

He said that Mr Mabood, who was going to Chicago to see a doctor, had fathered 14 sons, 11 of whom were still alive. The oldest still living is 100 years old and lives in Tashkent. Another is aged 93 and lives in Beirut. There are said to be more than 200 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

## Open verdict on Deptford fire youth

An open verdict was recorded yesterday for a survivor of the Deptford fire disaster who later plunged to his death from a block of flats.

Mr Anthony Berbeck escaped to safety from the house in south-east London in which 13 black teenagers died in 1981. He was one of several youths questioned by the police after the blaze at the birthday party of a girl aged 16.

But Detective Chief Inspector Stewart Dick told an inquest at Southwark, south London, that Mr Berbeck was never a suspect. No one has ever been charged in connection with deliberately starting the blaze.

Mr Berbeck, aged 20, was found dead at the foot of a block of flats in Sydenham, south-east London, last month. Mrs Berbeck told the inquest her son had been a patient at a psychiatric hospital after a nervous breakdown. She said that her son had been very depressed because of the fire and was a "completely different" person.

Mr Berbeck received psychiatric treatment for two years and was allowed home at weekends. During a weekend stay last month he disappeared from his home in Rathfern Road, Catford, south London, and was found dead.

## Detective work by mother sets son free

From Our Correspondent Rochdale

A mother turned detective when her son was locked up for almost three days and charged with serious offences which might have resulted in a prison sentence.

Mrs Margaret Farkas, aged 39, of Bromfield, Falinge Flats, Rochdale, believed James, aged 22, was innocent. She denied police allegations that he had stolen a car which had hit a wall and been driven at a policeman who was knocked down.

"He never tells lies and I decided to get to the truth. I had nothing to go on and I walked the streets looking for a damaged car. Finally, I heard a youth had been boasting about knocking down a policeman. Luckily, I was able to trace him because he had a bump on his head, and I found him and rang the police."

Police at Rochdale yesterday withdrew charges of taking a car, reckless driving, and three other motoring offences.

Mr Farkas, of Rainford Flats, Rochdale, said: "It was a genuine mistake by the police."

## 'Police taunts' claim by women

By Nicholas Timmins

The binding over for £1,000 she said "amounts to intimidation. It is an awful lot of money and should be condemned most strenuously". Mr Philip Cremin, the women's solicitor, said that the sum was harsh. "Given that it was a peaceful demonstration something in the region of £100 to £150 would be more normal."

The women were protesting at the Home Office decision to deport Afa Begum, a Bangladeshi woman, aged 19, and her daughter, aged two. She was given permission to join her husband who had been in Britain for 12 years, but he died in a fire in Brick Lane, east London, before she arrived. The Home Office argues that the death changed her circumstances for admission. She was allowed into

Britain only temporarily to settle his affairs. Her father and other members of her family are in the United Kingdom and she is in hiding.

Nita Datta said that police officers laughed at her and taunted her. "I am sure they were deliberately trying to humiliate me," she said.

The women said that they all had their saris removed and were kept in a small cell at Rochester Row which they said was filthy and stank of urine. They were transferred to Bow Street for the night but when they asked to wash in the morning they were allegedly told: "This is a police station not a hotel."

Scotland Yard said that no complaint had been received from the women. "If we do, it will be fully investigated."



Best foot forward: Mr Michael Andrius, an airline passenger, trying one of the new shoe-shine services which started experimentally at Heathrow airport yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos).



# Israel deserts the Chouf and Lebanese Premier goes on strike

From Robert Fisk, Damour, Lebanon

Israel's determination to withdraw its troops from the Chouf mountains and the coastline south of Beirut is being demonstrated every few hours.

Scarcely had Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister turned up in Beirut to warn of Israel's impending departure, an unprovoked Israeli strike prompted the Lebanese Prime Minister to stage a one-day token strike yesterday - then the Israeli Army decided to blow up a warren of tunnels beneath the former Palestinian guerrilla base at Damour.

In a massive explosion that sent columns of smoke more than a mile into the sky over the ruined town, the Israelis destroyed the caves and deep tunnels in which the Palestine Liberation Organization had stored weapons and supplies before last year's Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"We waited until we were leaving before blowing them up," an Israeli major said as the dust cloud shadowed the hills. "When we leave here, we can't really be sure we'll turn up in Damour - and we don't want the same gentlemen returning to use their tunnels again."



Occupational hazard: Israeli troops placing barbed wire along their new frontline in occupied Lebanon.

His comment, echoed by several other Israeli officers during an 80 mile journey down the coast and along the newly-fortified hills above the Awali River which will form Israel's frontier, was curiously at odds with Mr Arens' insistence on Tuesday that the Lebanese Army must take over from the Israelis when they leave the

## Paratroops robbed civilians

An Israeli court has jailed 11 Israeli paratroops to terms ranging from several months to a year for stealing jewels and money from Lebanese civilians, the newspaper *Yedioth Aharonoth* reported in Tel Aviv (IAPF reports). They committed the theft at security checkpoints in southern Lebanon in July. Some of them claimed they had done it out of bitterness because their unit had been the target of attacks in the area.

Chouf. But then Mr Arens' own statements in Beirut were equally strangled at odds with the photographs that appeared on the front pages of the Lebanese capital's morning newspapers yesterday.

Although he had expressed his hopes for a strong and unified Lebanon, the photographs showed Mr Arens meeting Mr Fady Frem, the Phalangist militia commander, and actually reviewing an armed Phalangist guard of honour in east Beirut.

On the face of it, it would be difficult to imagine anything more likely to upset west Beirut's Muslim population, mindful as they are that it was the phalangists who carried out the massacres in the Palestinian camps last year. Hence it was almost inevitable that the Prime Minister - was under Lebanon's national covenant must be a Sunni Muslim - would make some protest.

Wazzan cancelled a meeting of fellow Cabinet ministers and declined to attend several appointments during the day. He may have been trying to regain the prestige he lost among the Muslim community when Lebanese troops fought a gun battle with Shia Muslims in a Beirut slum neighbourhood last month.

But the same could not be said of Mr Saeb Salam, the former Prime Minister who recently represented Lebanon in talks with President Reagan. "I am shocked over the visit," he said. "The tragedy is that he (Mr Arens) was received with full honours that reached the extent of a salute by an illegal guard of honour in the capital of the Lebanese legitimate authority."

Meanwhile convoys of Israeli Army lorries continued to leave the Chouf yesterday carrying generators, tents and camp equipment. All this was being watched by both Phalangist and Druze militia in the Chouf whose presence - they are armed and are setting up checkpoints on main highways - is still greeted with indifference by the Israelis.

Returning along the Old Sidon Road around Beirut with an escort of Israeli officers yesterday I saw three Druze gunmen - two carrying AK47 rifles - stopping all civilian traffic scarcely a mile from Beirut airport. Although these men would qualify as terrorists in the Israelis' lexicon, the Israeli officers with me merely smiled and waved at the gunmen who stood back and smiled in return.

## Zealots put curse on archaeologists

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The bizarre struggle between secular and religious Jews over the future of Jerusalem's main archaeological excavation on the site of the City of David intensified yesterday as thousands of zealots converged on the site to invoke an ancient curse against those involved with it.

Scores of riot police were on duty for the demonstration, one of the largest staged since the ultra-orthodox community launched its violent campaign to halt any further exploration at the site below the walls of Jerusalem's Old City - which they claim was once a medieval Jewish graveyard.

Many of those taking part belonged to Netzer Karia, an extreme sect which refuses to recognize the existence of the State of Israel and has expressed backing for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The black-hatted Jews passed round a pamphlet in

Hebrew with photographs comparing the commander of Jerusalem's police to Adolf Hitler.

Furious plainclothes men could be seen inspecting the crude pamphlet and discussing with their uniformed superiors what action should be taken against those distributing it. Meanwhile, some of the most venerable rabbis in Jerusalem sat on the back of a lorry intoning prayers through loudspeakers.

Also present were supporters of Aqadat Israel, another ultra-orthodox group which is a member of Mr Menachem Begin's ruling coalition and is attempting to push through a new archaeology law to restrict severely the future of excavation anywhere in the Holy Land.

The anger of the zealots had been increased this week when the eminent archaeologist in charge of the site, Professor

Yigal Shiloh, held a press tour and vowed to continue with his work despite the many threats against him and his 450 volunteers.

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, a leader of Netzer Karia, explained yesterday that the ancient curse had previously been invoked on the owner of Jerusalem's first mixed bathing pool and that many others had subsequently drowned in it.

By late afternoon, the dusty site, which now stretches down through 25 different layers of Jerusalem's history to the third millennium BC looked more like an area under siege than a place for historical scholarship.

Professor Shiloh, a distinctive looking figure in a wide-brimmed straw hat, said: "As far as we are concerned, the dig is perfectly legal. These people are just trying to turn every archaeological site in Israel into a cemetery."

## French troops face Chad clash

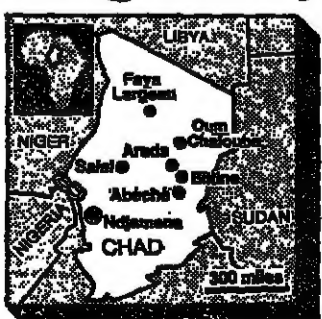
## Mitterrand angered by White House pressure

From Roger Beardswood, Paris

France is sending more troops to Chad, taking the total to more than 1,000. They will replace 400 moved from Nijmegen to the strategic line from Sarrel to Arbecé, 250 miles south of the rebel-held city of Faya-Largeau.

Reports here, so far not confirmed officially, indicate that French units have moved north of that line to support Chadian troops against an expected rebel drive through the desert.

Although the Government continues to insist that its troops are in Chad in an advisory role, their growing number and the rebels' southward movement convinces political and military observers



here that an armed clash is almost inevitable.

Yesterday, it was announced officially that next Tuesday the National Assembly's commission on foreign affairs will question M Claude Cheysson, the External Relations Minister.

*Le Monde*, in a long political analysis by one of its most senior commentators, Eric Rouleau, confirms that President Mitterrand is highly critical of US pressure on France.

The analysis, apparently based on an interview with him, says M Mitterrand has been irritated by President Reagan's many missiles on Chad, and emphasizes that French policy is made in Paris. *Le Monde* says: "The head of the White House pushed paradox to its extreme when he categorically excluded American military intervention in Chad, declaring that it was in the French sphere of influence. With the same candour, Mr Reagan did not fear recourse to the vocabulary of the colonial era."

In M Mitterrand's eyes, both Mr Habib and his predecessor, former President Goukouni Oueddei, are "each in his own way" - Chadian nationalists. But, the analysis emphasizes, M Mitterrand is determined that France shall not be "le gendarme d'Afrique."

*Le Monde*'s analysis confirms M Mitterrand's reluctance to allow France to be drawn into the civil war and, at the same time, his concern that if Libya is allowed to play a free hand the whole region will be destabilized.

M Mitterrand has to balance his policies against the vehement criticism of any French military role by his own left-wingers and by the Communists.

## Apology welcomed

By Our Foreign Staff

The apology made by Washington to France for the US Army's part in helping former Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie to escape trial after the Second World War was welcomed yesterday by the French Government spokesman, Mr Max Gallo.

He described the apology as frank but he deplored the practices which it described. He noted that the American Government had been unaware that US officers had helped

Barbie to escape to Latin America. "The most important thing today is that Klaus Barbie has been arrested," M Gallo said. Barbie is awaiting trial in Lyons for crimes against humanity since being brought to France from exile in Bolivia. The Soviet news agency Tass said the US report showed that Washington used Barbie "in its subversive operations against the USSR and other European countries."

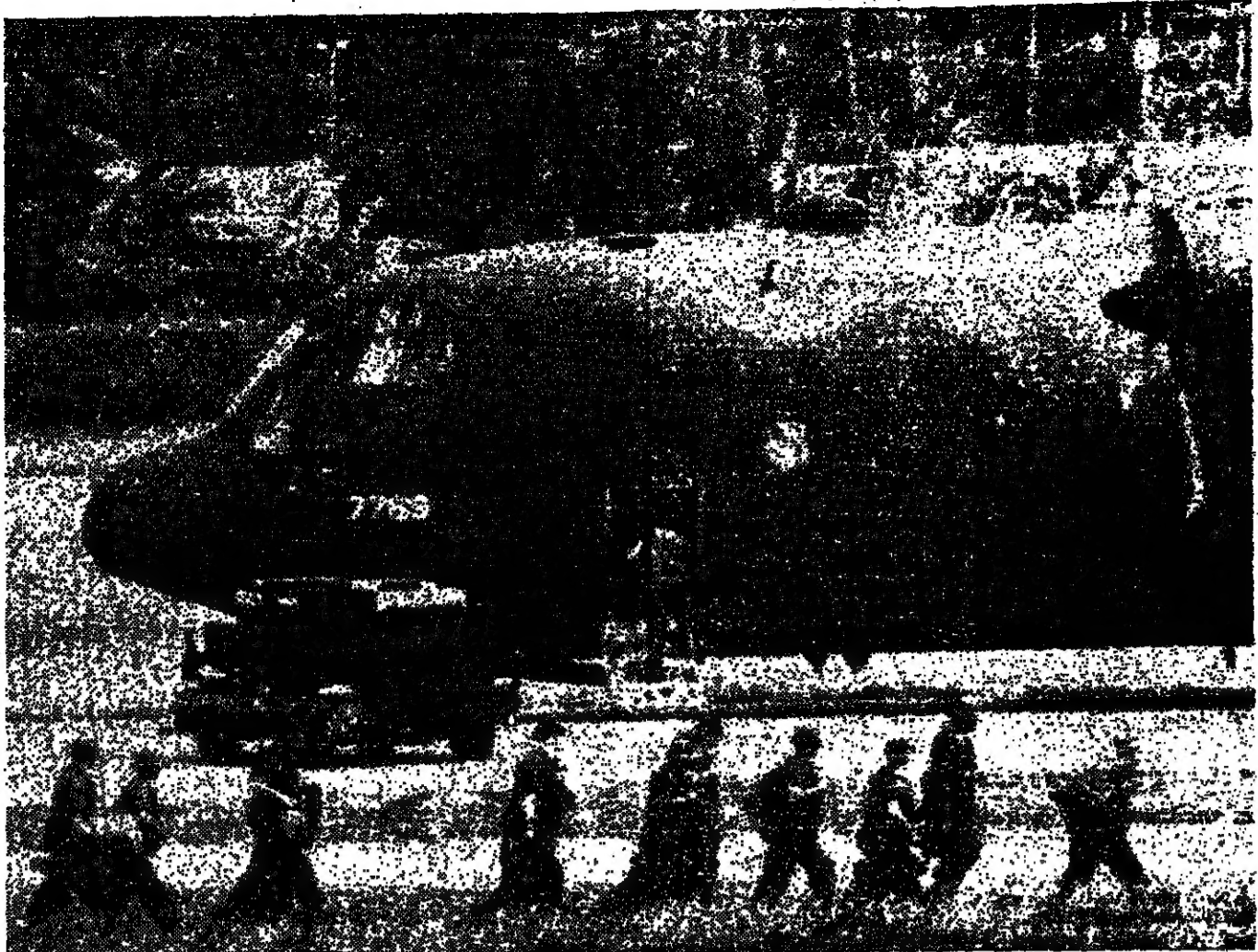
From Our Correspondent, Lisbon  
The Spanish fishing boat Rio Evro was arrested by Portuguese coastguards this week on a charge of fishing illegally and towed into the port of Faro on Portugal's southern coast. It was the seventh vessel to be taken into custody in the past week by Spanish and Portuguese authorities in the fishing war. Portugal is also holding the Spanish boat Loyola Uriarte, captured on Sunday in Faro, and the Mar de Espana, captured on Monday near Oporto.

Spain is detaining four Portuguese boats in the port of Vigo, and is demanding seven million pesetas (£31,000) for their release. The boats' Portuguese owners have petitioned the Government in Lisbon to solve the problem. The fishing war has been going on for some time and in several incidents shots have been fired across bows. The fishing agreement between the two countries ran out seven

months ago and has not yet been renewed. Fishermen on both sides must continue to fish, and have found it more profitable up to now to pay an occasional fine than to stop. Spain and Portugal have been unable to come to terms on a new agreement despite frequent negotiations. Portugal is reluctant to grant a large number of licences to the more technically advanced Spanish fleet. Sardinian fishermen here face the prospect of losing their most profitable strip of water and with it the island's main income.

a draft Spanish-Moroccan fishing treaty that cuts Spanish quotas and hits the small Canary Islands fleet hardest (Reuters reports). Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, told reporters in Madrid: "If the treaty is not in the interests of the sectors involved, the Government will not sign it."

Sardinian fishermen here face the prospect of losing their most profitable strip of water and with it the island's main income.



War games: American troops on arrival in Honduras for manoeuvres with the Honduran Army.

## Reagan holds back on Salvador advisers

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The Reagan Administration, faced with widespread hostility to further United States involvement in Central America, has decided against a large increase in the number of advisers because of probable hostility in Congress and out of fear of "Americanizing" the civil war.

The Pentagon and State Department are believed to have advised President Reagan to hold the number to about the present level of 55. A small increase is likely, however, because of what White House officials described as a "redefinition" of the meaning of advisers. In future "advisers" will be deemed to be those directly involved in training Salvadoran soldiers, thus excluding military personnel assigned to the US Embassy.

According to CBS News that will mean an immediate increase of 11 military personnel to El Salvador. It said the Administration ruled out a large increase in the number of advisers because of probable hostility in Congress and out of fear of "Americanizing" the civil war.

The US naval presence off Central America is rapidly building up as part of military manoeuvres in the region. The aircraft carrier Coral Sea and its escorts have just started patrolling of Nicaragua's east coast and the battleship New Jersey is close to the west coast. US reconnaissance aircraft have picked out a Soviet cargo ship in the Caribbean. According to Administration officials,

it is loaded with arms for the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua. ● GUATEMALA CITY: Señor Fernando Andrada, a lawyer, said on taking office as Guatemala's new Foreign Minister that the region's conflicts must be resolved by negotiations among Central Americans (Reuters reports).

He told his first press conference that he would travel through Central America to meet his fellow foreign ministers. Guatemala continued to back the efforts of the Contadora group - Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama - to reach a negotiated end to regional conflicts, he said. ● TEGUCIGALPA: The Honduran armed forces chief,

General Gustavo Alvarez, said the United States must fortify democratic countries in Central America to avoid future military action (Reuters reports).

"If the US helps us militarily and economically now, we will not need to ask for the use of American combat troops," he said. "But if the US does not make the right decisions now, it may be faced with two alternatives: intervene militarily or lose Central America."

● QUITO: The Ecuadorian Parliament unanimously passed a resolution demanding an end to all foreign intervention in Central America and describing US military exercises in the area as a threat to peace (Reuters reports).

## Congress study sees merit in Soviet case

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Reagan Administration has reacted sharply to an independent study which suggests there are weaknesses in the position of the United States and its allies that British and French nuclear weapons should be excluded from the intermediate-range (INF) arms reduction talks in Geneva.

The report, compiled by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, says the question of whether or not to include the 162 British and French missiles is a big obstacle in the negotiations. The US-Soviet talks began a year and a half ago and are expected to reach a climax this autumn as the December deadline for the deployment of new American medium-range missiles in Western Europe approaches.

The Soviet Union maintains that as the British and French missiles are aimed at Soviet territory they should be taken into account, along with the 572 Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles which NATO plans to deploy.

The US, on the other hand, supported by Britain and France, has rejected the Soviet case. It argues that as the British and French systems are entirely independent and are only intended to deter attack on those two countries, the US missiles are needed for the defence of the rest of Western Europe.

The Americans also make the point that the British and

French systems are "strategic" whereas the Geneva talks are about "theatre" weapons, and that all but 18 of their missiles are submarine-launched and therefore cannot be compared equally to the Soviet Union's 330 ground-launched SS20 missiles. Although the Congressional Research Service study does not draw any conclusions, it does suggest there is some merit in the Soviet case and that it therefore may be necessary to explore alternatives that would take account of the Soviet point of view.

Among possible alternatives suggested by the study are: an "implicit accounting" of the British and French systems in an eventual INF agreement between the two superpowers; an undertaking to include the British and French systems in the separate strategic arms reduction (Star) negotiations, which are also taking place in Geneva; or the combining of the INF and Star talks to include all strategic, intermediate and theatre weapons systems.

In a prepared statement the State Department sharply rejected these suggestions saying that "the rationale against inclusion of British and French forces in the INF negotiations is compelling... we are not prepared to negotiate limits on or compensation for such system."

Hand of friendship, page 5

## Washington revives some diplomatic ghosts

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The buzz of exotic parties and the aroma of sumptuous meals once drifted through the chandeliered corridors of the Iranian Embassy in Washington, where the Shah's emissaries pampered the famous, the mighty and the rich.

Today, the building stands empty alongside the broad expanse of Massachusetts Avenue, crumbling and dead. Similarly, the former embassies of Cambodia and Vietnam are empty and decaying, the corpses of a diplomatic relationship that war destroyed.

The State Department bears responsibility for the buildings - all in prime locations, beautiful in their day and still not beyond redemption. The Americans have decided to bring life back to the old ghosts and rent them out, and in a neat little twist the governments of the three nations may foot the bill.

The Iranians maintain a small team in Washington under the auspices of the Algerian Embassy, and earlier this year they received a diplomatic note informing them of the decision to restore and rent their old embassy. The former home of the Iranian ambassador, along with five other premises the Iranians still technically own, are also being repaired and rented.

There was no reply. Similarly, the Vietnamese were silent when informed about renovation plans on their

premises in a street not far from the Iranians' former embassy. It has been empty since Saigon was overthrown by communist forces.

The Cambodians were not given the courtesy of a diplomatic note about plans for their old embassy way up on 16th Street, which also has stood empty since April, 1975. The former home of the Cambodian ambassador has been badly vandalized.

The State Department has put word about that prospective tenants are now free to ask for a look round.

There is a slight problem, however. The buildings are still legally owned by the respective governments and, should diplomatic relations ever be restored, they clearly will expect them back. Thus the State Department, reluctant to spend its own money on somebody else's investment, has asked the Treasury Department for permission to use the important funds of the three governments.

Another source of money has also presented itself. Earlier this month a removal van was spotted in front of the old Iranian Embassy and Mr Harvey Buffalo, the deputy director of the State Department's office of foreign missions, confirmed that furniture "not of a historical nature or antique" is to be auctioned off and the proceeds put towards the cost of repairs.

## Consul free as gunman is arrested

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A gunman who held the Spanish Consul General and three others hostage for eight hours at the Spanish Consulate in Los Angeles surrendered yesterday after being assured his family had been put on an aircraft for Puerto Rico.

As soon as he had been arrested, however, his wife and two children were taken off the flight.

Police said the Consul General, Señor Joaquín Muñoz Del Castillo, another man and two women who worked at the consulate were released unharmed.

The Spanish-speaking gunman who spoke to police by telephone, said he could not find work in Los Angeles. Police said he would be charged with extortion.

## Double trouble of China twins

Peking - Parents of twins in China are being penalized because they violate the national campaign to have only one child per family. A Chinese mother of twins complained in a letter to a newspaper that her children were excluded from privileged activities set aside for only children.

"It was not our subjective will to have twins," she said. Parents of single children receive an extra monthly allowance but parents of two are subject to financial penalty.

## Local painting hid a Gauguin

France (AFP) - A hitherto unknown Gauguin painting valued at 1m francs (about £25,000) has been discovered here on the reverse side of a local canvas loaned for an exhibition. It was authenticated by Louvre experts. Gauguin gave the painting to the local barber, an amateur artist, in payment for a haircut and a meal when he was on his way to meet Van Gogh at Arles.

## Gelli order

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - An Argentine judge has ordered the seizure of a 1,750-acre farm owned by Licio Gelli, who escaped from a Swiss jail last week while being held to face corruption, conspiracy and subversion charges in Italy. Gold deposited in his name at a Buenos Aires bank was also placed under court control.

## Yoko Ono loses

New York (Reuters) - Yoko Ono has lost an attempt to block distribution of a magazine containing nude photographs of her and her late husband, John Lennon, which she said were stolen. Manhattan Supreme Court ruled that the Lennons were public figures, and therefore there was no invasion of her rights to privacy.

## Paper closed

Monrovia (AFP) - The independent *Daily Observer* newspaper has been closed down "indefinitely" by Liberia's Justice Minister who said he did so because of the paper's "constant position of reporting news not complementary to the Government's efforts."

## Boxers defect

Kaiserslautern (Reuters) - Two Polish amateur boxers from Katowice defected to West Germany after a contest with a local team and will be allowed to remain. They were named as Andreas Danilak, aged 23, a featherweight, and light-heavyweight Richard Kostov, aged 22.

## Battle royal

Johannesburg - The bitter royal feud in Swaziland took a further turn when the Great She-Elephant, Queen Dzewile, went to court to seek legal redress over her dismissal as Queen Regent. The Chief Justice said he would give his judgment in a week's time.

## Radio seized

Paris (AFP) - Police closed down the pirate radio Carbone-14 for broadcasting for 23 months without a licence despite frequent warnings. It was the first pirate radio to be seized since the Socialists came to power in May, 1981.

## Typhoon deaths

Tokyo (AFP) - Torrential rains pounded central Japan yesterday as Typhoon Abby ripped through Honshu Island, leaving at least two people dead, one missing and 25 injured, and disrupting communications.

## 3,000 set free

Jakarta (Reuters) - Indonesia announced the release of 3,198 prisoners while 14,000 others had their sentences reduced in a national day amnesty decreed by President Suharto.

## Search for Ark

Ankara (Reuters) - Mr James Irwin, the American astronaut who flew to the Moon in 1971, has returned to Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey where he was injured in a fall last year while searching for remains of Noah's Ark. He has resumed the search.



## Andropov holds out hand of friendship until December

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov yesterday appealed to the United States to reach an "honest agreement" with Moscow over arms control at Geneva before Russia is forced to respond to the deployment of new Nato missiles.

He made his remarks during a meeting with Mr William Winpisinger, vice-president of the American AFL-CIO trade union organization. The AFL-CIO is usually regarded as right-wing and anti-Soviet by the Soviet leadership, although Mr Winpisinger himself holds views more sympathetic to the Soviet Union.

Mr Andropov is today to hold talks with nine senior Democratic Party senators led by Senator Claiborne Pell, the senior Democrat on the Senate foreign relations committee.

Diplomats said both moves were intended to convey Moscow's desire for an improvement in Soviet-American relations, and to underline the Soviet view that the current frosty atmosphere is the fault of the Reagan Administration rather than the Soviet leadership's.

In his meeting with Mr Winpisinger, Mr Andropov said the nuclear arms race in Europe was the "nerve centre" of East-West relations, and that Moscow was willing to meet Washington half way "on many points". Russia would pursue a constructive and flexible line at Geneva until December, when Nato is due to deploy new missiles in Europe. In the absence of an agreement on medium-range missiles, Moscow would then be "compelled to take counter-measures to ensure the security of the Soviet Union and its allies".

Mr Andropov told Mr Winpisinger, who also heads the Association of Machinebuilders and Aerospace Workers - that he favoured increased contacts between American and Russia, but added: "At present both the AFL-CIO leadership and the American authorities are doing everything to hinder contacts".

He said that if the United States extended a hand of friendship, "it will always be given a sincere handshake by the Soviet People".

● **WASHINGTON:** The United States strongly denied a Soviet allegation that American officials had "enticed" or "harassed" the 15-year-old son of a Tass correspondent and others of his family as they were about to fly home from Washington last week (Mohsin Ali writes).

The boy, son of Mr Vyacheslav Kukharenko, had been interrogated at an airport on Friday night and urged not to board a flight to Moscow together with his family, Moscow said in a formal protest.

A State Department spokesman said: "We strongly deny that the US Government or its officials enticed or harassed the Tass correspondent or his family".

Tass had reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and immigration officials "illegally tried" to persuade Mr Kukharenko's son to stay in the US rather than to return to the Soviet Union.

Earlier, the State Department demanded that another Soviet teenager, Andrei Berezhkov, the son of Mr Valentin Berezhkov, first secretary at the Soviet Embassy, must not leave the United States until he had been interviewed by American officials to determine whether he wished to seek asylum here.

Senior Soviet officials said yesterday that recently announced economic reforms would not lead to decentralization and would only be introduced gradually.

Mr Nikolai Baibakov, head of the State Planning Agency (Gosplan) said at a press conference that "limited experiments" in selected industries would be conducted cautiously "in view of the size and scope of our economy".

On Monday, President Andropov was far more forth-

right when he said in a speech to party veterans that "our entire huge economy" was in need of overhaul if it was to function properly. Russia, he said, needed more than "half measures" to overcome "accumulated inertia".

Mr Baibakov, who is 72, has been head of Gosplan since 1965, and would not appear to be part of that new breed of vigorous management that Mr Andropov is banking on to replace inertia with efficiency and reform.

Mr Vasily Prokhorov, a senior trade union official, said that new laws tightening labour discipline and laying down strict penalties for absenteeism and drunkenness did not violate human or civil rights.

Mr Vladimir Terebilov, the Minister of Justice, said the penalties were needed to cut huge production losses, and did not contravene international labour conventions to which Moscow is a party.

Asked whether Mr Nikolai Shchegolev, the former Interior Minister disgraced following corruption allegations, would be put on trial, Mr Terebilov said no proceedings had yet begun.

## Swimming to freedom

### Turkey's political fugitives find a haven in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Lavrio, Greece

Refugees from the military regime in Turkey are fleeing in considerable numbers to Greece in search of political asylum and employment.

Since the Turkish military takeover in September 1980, about 380 Turks and Kurds, mainly men between the ages of 18 and 40, have made their getaway.

Some are on the "wanted" list of terrorists, others are simply left-wing activists, and still others merely hope to use the political angle as a means to emigrate to find work.

In one sense, the Turks are privileged because the Greeks are granting them work permits, although the refugees complain they can find no jobs. About 100 of them have, however, succeeded and are making a living from ill-paid, heavy duty jobs and live in rented flats in Athens.

Another 150 obtained United Nations travel documents and went to Western Europe in search of places to settle. Another batch are living cooped-up in an overcrowded camp for political refugees in this mining town 35 miles south-east of Athens, waiting for asylum to be granted.

"It is difficult to tell who is a genuine political refugee, but we give them the benefit of the doubt," Mr Gary Perkins, Athens representative of the UN Office of the High

Commissioner for Refugees, said. The office contributes to the upkeep of the Lavrio camp and gives the occupants legal protection.

There are two main escape routes from Turkey to Greece. It takes less than half an hour to swim across the river Evros - which marks the northern border between the two countries. The other way is to sail across from the Anatolian coast to the Greek islands, only a short distance away.



Tevfik, an English-speaking accountant, aged 30 who escaped with his wife when both were sentenced to seven years in jail for trade union activities, adopted the latter route.

They joined five other friends and bought a speedboat. Then they made a dash from

Bodrum, the present-day Gallipoli, to the Greek island of Kos. They now live in the refugee camp at Lavrio.

The camp complex consists of two-story blocks of dormitories built around an open courtyard, and looks more like a school than a transit camp. It has a capacity for 125 which will be doubled soon, but it already houses twice as many in neat but uncomfortable quarters.

The Turks I interviewed here refused to give their surnames and turned their faces away from the camera, arguing that if they were recognized their families back home might be victimized.

For instance Mehmet, aged 34, a short, amiable school-teacher from Maras, and his smiling wife Feride, aged 28, left their two children behind when they decided to flee two years ago by crossing the Evros.

Today Feride washes dishes in a Lavrio cafeteria, but her husband can find no work, even as a building worker at half-pay. He says: "Still, we are given lunch and dinner here, and there is solidarity among us because we are all communists."

They live in one of the cubicle-rooms on the second floor, its walls covered with posters of Nazim Hikmet, the Turkish poet who died in exile.



Facing up to exile: Mehmet, a Maras school-teacher, and his wife Feride, masked to protect their children

## Opposition alliance leader held in Pakistan

Karachi (Reuters)—At least one person died when security forces opened fire yesterday during continued protests against Pakistan's martial law regime.

The shooting occurred as several thousand people attacked a railway station and looted warehouses in Dadu, 200 miles north of Karachi, government officials said. During the violent demonstrations three court buildings were set on fire and 60 people were arrested.

According to opposition sources, four people were killed when the security forces opened fire.

In Peshawar, opposition sources said police had arrested more than 30 political dissidents yesterday, including Begum Nasim Wali Khan and more than 30 members of her National Democratic Party on the eve of a rally in Peshawar.

Begum Khan took over on Tuesday as head of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, an alliance of eight banned political parties.

Dissidents are hoping that a successful rally in Peshawar will cause demonstrations to spread beyond the borders of the volatile Sind province.

In Larkana, the home town in Sind province of the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a military court has sentenced four demonstrators against martial law to 10 lashes, a year's hard labour and stiff fines.

## Soviet officials dilute their leader's ideas

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Senior Soviet officials said yesterday that recently announced economic reforms would not lead to decentralization and would only be introduced gradually.

Mr Nikolai Baibakov, head of the State Planning Agency (Gosplan) said at a press conference that "limited experiments" in selected industries would be conducted cautiously "in view of the size and scope of our economy".

On Monday, President Andropov was far more forth-

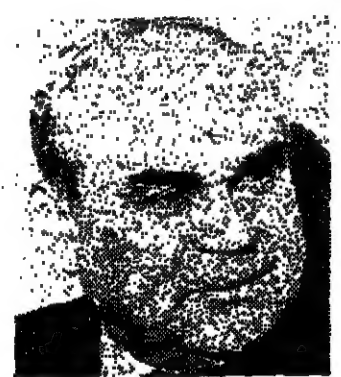
right when he said in a speech to party veterans that "our entire huge economy" was in need of overhaul if it was to function properly. Russia, he said, needed more than "half measures" to overcome "accumulated inertia".

Mr Baibakov, who is 72, has been head of Gosplan since 1965, and would not appear to be part of that new breed of vigorous management that Mr Andropov is banking on to replace inertia with efficiency and reform.

Mr Vasily Prokhorov, a senior trade union official, said that new laws tightening labour discipline and laying down strict penalties for absenteeism and drunkenness did not violate human or civil rights.

Mr Vladimir Terebilov, the Minister of Justice, said the penalties were needed to cut huge production losses, and did not contravene international labour conventions to which Moscow is a party.

Asked whether Mr Nikolai Shchegolev, the former Interior Minister disgraced following corruption allegations, would be put on trial, Mr Terebilov said no proceedings had yet begun.



Mr Baibakov: Held his job for 18 years

## Bulls on loose kill man of 68 in town terror

From Tony Duboulin, Melbourne

About 40 wild bulls went on the rampage in the north Queensland outback town of Charleville, killing a man, injuring a number of other people, damaging cars and knocking down fences.

A lorry which was taking them to Townsville, about 80 miles to the south-west, on Tuesday overturned and split open, allowing the animals to escape.

Mr Cyril Flowers, aged 68, was riding his bicycle when a large bull charged him, knocked him down and mauled him. He died yesterday in hospital.

Police said that more than a dozen people escaped by leaping over fences as the bulls charged.

## Monk jailed for criticizing Thailand Queen

From Netti Kelly, Bangkok

After a trial held in secret, a former Buddhist monk was sentenced yesterday to three years' imprisonment for making derogatory remarks in public about the Thai royal family.

Anant Senakhan, who was a police major before becoming a monk, received the minimum sentence under the law for lese-majesty against Queen Sirikit and Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn at a public meeting during the general election.

In another verdict announced yesterday, Major-General Sawong Pinyo, a former aide to General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, was given a suspended two-year sentence by a military court for complicity in an illegal \$1.5m arms deal.

## Jayewardene extends state of emergency

From Donovan Meldrich, Colombo

The Cabinet yesterday decided to extend the state of emergency in Sri Lanka for another month, but relax progressively the 11 pm to 4 am curfew in Colombo and eight other districts. The state of emergency was originally declared in May to prevent any post-elections held the same day.

It was renewed in June and July owing to terrorist activity in the north and communal violence in the eastern Trincomalee district before the island-wide disturbances in July in which 384 persons were killed. The Cabinet decided to

extend the emergency as a precautionary measure even though there had been no disturbances since the weekend.

President Jayewardene unveiled plans for the reconstruction of riot-damaged commercial areas.

● **Tamils arrive:** A government spokesman said about 40,000 Tamils displaced by the rioting had now arrived in Jaffna, where the minority community predominates. There were still 13,000 Tamils in four camps in Colombo who did not want to go to Jaffna - (Reuters reports).

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# The universal fixer

The young man, who worked at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, wanted to buy a house but could not raise a mortgage. He went to the opera house's general director and asked if the money could be lent to him. The general director sent him to Lord Goodman, a member of the board, whom the young man did not know and who in his turn had never heard of the young man. Lord Goodman not only lent him the money but even went to inspect the house. Months went by. The young man was concerned that he was not being asked for any repayments on the loan. He telephoned Lord Goodman's office. Lord Goodman's secretary went away to look at the file. She came back and told the young man that his file was marked "Not to be worried".

Anyone who knows Arnold Goodman would regard this episode as neither exceptional nor surprising; Goodman's willingness to help people does not depend on their being famous or powerful, or on their ability to turn to help him. "He has more words of court than anyone I know", says a close friend. The famous come knocking at his door; the unknown are not turned away. Sometimes his wide contacts create complications. On one occasion he was involved in informal negotiations between Michael Foot and *The Observer* newspaper. "I wasn't quite sure whether he was acting for me or *The Observer*", Foot recalled; both sides, however, seem to have been satisfied with the outcome.

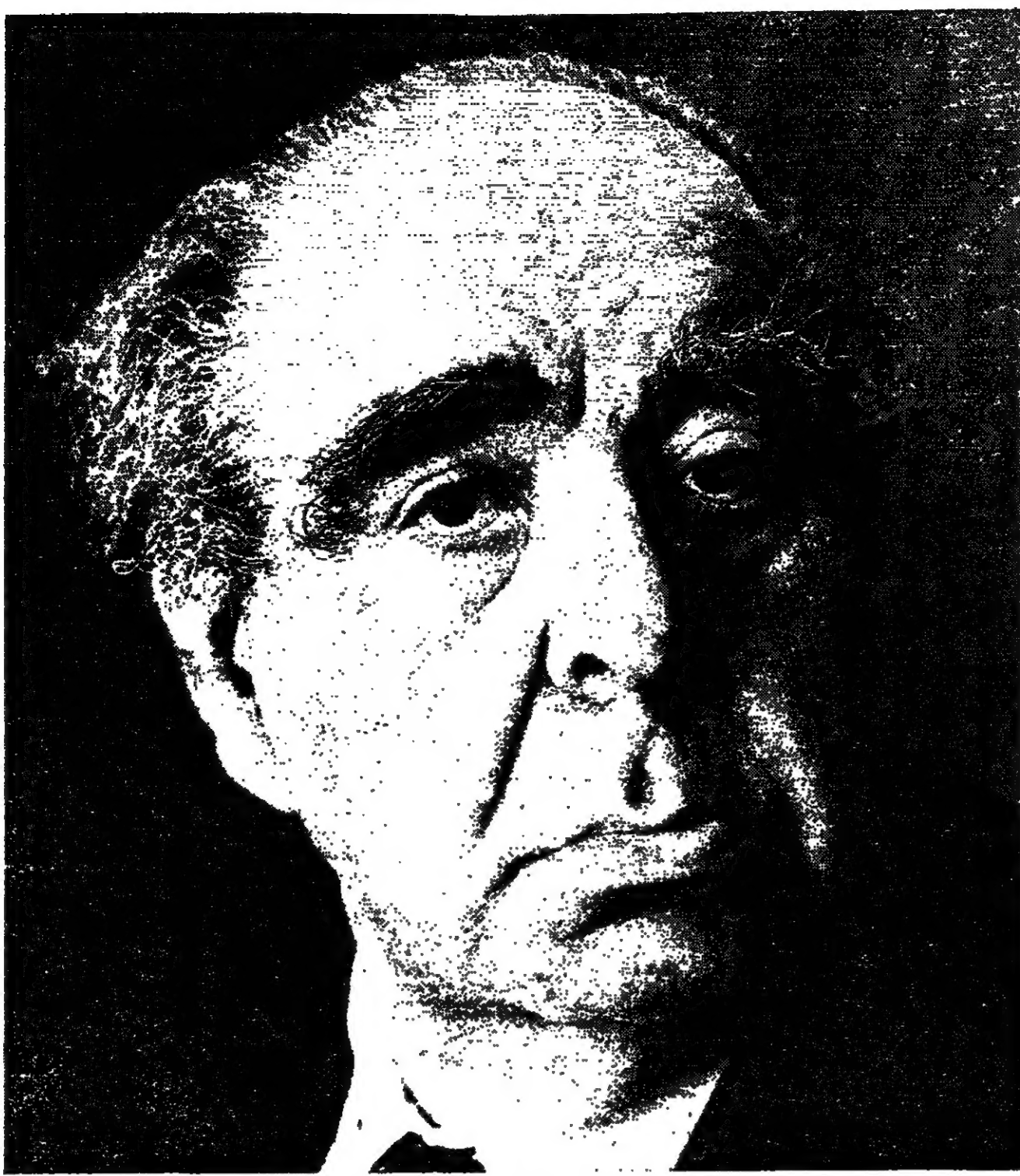
He is the only man in England to have received a peerage from a Labour prime minister and to have been made a Companion of Honour by a Conservative prime minister. Moreover, both of these prime ministers, Harold Wilson and Edward Heath, who, on the whole, could not stand each other, asked Goodman to do the same job for them, namely to help engineer a settlement of the rebellion in Rhodesia. For Wilson, in 1968, Goodman set up the talks aboard HMS Fearless; for Heath, who appointed him to do the job "because he knew all the people and did all the work" - in 1971 he obtained an agreement, which was denounced by many at the time as a sell-out of the black Africans, who retaliated by rejecting it when consulted by the Pearce Commission.

Goodman does indeed know just about everyone who matters in British public life, and has advised every great national institution. He probably knows more secrets of the great than anyone else in the country. He has been described as the most influential man in England. He has been appointed to quangos impartially by governments of all colours, to the Socialistic Industrial Reorganization Corporation by Labour and to the chairmanship of the not much less socialistic Housing Corporation by the Conservatives. Yet for the first 50 of his 70 years he was not a public figure at all.

He was born to prosperous parents who came from South Africa (he visits South Africa regularly) and obtained a double first in law at Cambridge. During the war he served in the army, rising from gunner to major and along the way becoming a phenomenally successful quartermaster sergeant who kept his own unit lavishly supplied when all others were starved of equipment.

He joined Rubinstein Nash, a well-known firm of libel lawyers, and then set up in practice himself. He started in one of the most famous libel actions of the day when in 1957 he obtained substantial damages for Aneurin Bevan, Richard Crossman and the Labour Party's general secretary, Morgan Phillips, all accused by *The Spectator* of being drunk in charge of a British delegation to a socialist congress in Venice.

By this time Goodman had become well known to those in the know, but



The Times Profile: Lord Goodman, 70 today

his name meant nothing to the wider public. That changed in 1964 when, sensing an issue that could win him votes in the run-up to that year's general election, the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, brought Goodman in as mediator to help settle a strike of commercial television technicians. The dispute was solved and, aided by the briefing of his close army friend George Wigg (who had been a campaign manager in Wilson's leadership election), Goodman became nationally celebrated as "Mr X", the fixer.

Just as John Ford once announced himself with the statement, "I make westerns", so from then onward the view of Goodman became: he settles strikes. He was still at it in 1980, when he was widely held to have solved the BBC's Proms off the air. Even this month people in Fleet Street were saying that *The Financial Times* strike would have lasted nothing like so long if Goodman had still been chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

That is because he is regarded as a man "with the talent to go right to the centre point of any problem" (Edward Heath), "ingenious in finding solutions and quick at it" (Harold Wilson). The problems he has solved are almost innumerable.

When Richard Crossman, as Minister of Housing, was trying to find a way

Lord Goodman of the City of Westminster  
Senior Partner, Goodman Derrick and Co,  
Solicitors  
born August 21 1913  
educated University College, London; Downing College, Cambridge  
1935 Enlisted Gunner RA TA  
1945 Retired Major  
1965-71 Arts Council of GB  
1965-72 British Lion Films  
1966 Member, Royal Commission on Working of Tribunals of Enquiry (Evidence) Act 1921  
1967-76 Chairman, Observer Trust  
1967- Member, British Council (Vice-Chairman 1974-)  
1970-75 Newspaper Publishers' Association  
1972 Director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden  
1972- Governor, Royal Shakespeare Theatre  
1973-77 Chairman, Housing Corporation  
1973- English National Opera (Chairman 1977-)  
1974 Chairman, Committee of Inquiry on Charity Law  
1976- Master of University College, Oxford

to moderate rent increases without an elaborate bureaucratic machinery, he called in Goodman, who invented the concept of fair rents. Goodman mediated in a dispute between the Labour government and National Health Service consultants. His work in the field of the arts is prodigious. He was widely judged to be the best ever chairman of the Arts Council. Jennie Lee said that "there might well have been no National Theatre but for the part he played behind the scenes". He has been suggested as the man who could settle the Northern Ireland problem. Calls have been made for

him to form a government of national unity.

Yet Goodman is not simply a bland man of the soft centre. While never a member of the Labour Party, he is of the liberal left of centre. Always ready to bring combatants together, he nevertheless can be combative himself, and has used his seat in the House of Lords to launch energetic and deeply felt campaigns.

He fought Harold Wilson by championing Biafra in the Nigerian civil war; "he was more steamed up than at any time I've seen him", Wilson remembered. He fought Michael Foot by opposing clauses in the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill which he contended threatened press freedom. He organized opposition to the Conservative Government's decision in 1980 to end rent control for private tenants, a move he described as "an act of gratuitous cruelty".

Yet, though he has been labelled by *The Spectator* and *Private Eye*, he has made few enemies. Wilson still regards him as a good friend. Michael Foot describes him as "a man of the greatest honour, his integrity above reproach". A private man who bitterly regretted succumbing to persuasion and giving his one television interview - it was a disaster - he has a great talent for friendship. Unmarried, now bereaved of the mother he adored and the

brother to whom he was devoted (immensely knowledgeable about music, he died during a concert at the Festival Hall), he can like people and be liked by them even while passionately disagreeing with them. Of one woman he remarked: "I can't bear her neo-fascist sentiments"; yet he remained close to her.

He involves himself in great arguments, in which he mixes dialectical hyperbole with mordant wit. He dismissed an idea put forward by one associate with the crushing words: "That's like telling a polar bear he'd make a good rug." Yet, says Harold Lever, "when he wins he looks at his opponent benignly and offers him a chocolate ginger".

He is a huge man, tall (6ft 2in) and bulky (though, due to ill-health which now slows him down, less vast than he used to be). A former Cabinet minister remembers: "You could tell when he was at No 10 because his coat, which could not conceivably belong to anyone else, was hanging in the ante-room."

Goodman is a legendary fund-raiser. One very powerful politician puts it bluntly: "He knows a lot of very rich people". Another says: "He intimidates all his friends into giving and he gives himself." In his flat in Portland Place (reached by a lift which leads right into it) he has held soirées at which close friends like Max Aitken and Evelyn de Rothschild would act as waiters and for which his housekeeper would prepare Jewish dishes such as gefilte fish which, though herself not Jewish, she has learned to cook out of affection for her employer.

Goodman is described as a good Jew, attached to his traditional culture and to the Israeli cause. He has served on Jewish bodies such as the Institute of Jewish Affairs and the Jewish Chronicle Trust; but then, he seems to have served on everything, from the Committee of Inquiry on Charity Law to The Observer Trust (he broke the tradition that only Protestants could be members), from the British Council to the National Book League, from British Lion Films to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Indeed, even his greatest admirers agree that he takes on too much, that he seems to turn up everywhere (one critic said that no performance at Covent Garden could be regarded as valid without Lord Goodman's presence) and that he tries to pack so much into a day that his timetable gets farther and farther behind. That is how he came to be called "the late Lord Goodman". Accused by one acquaintance of neglecting University College, Oxford, of which he has been Master since 1976, he replied, woundedly: "I go there at least once a week".

Moreover, while his ability to master a case has few equals ("absolutely brilliant, tremendous powers of persuasion", says Michael Foot), his powers of discrimination are not so universally admired. Foot accuses him of "stunning political naivety".

Some people ask what precisely Goodman has achieved in his public life to justify recognition which is almost unparalleled. His list of specific attainments is nowhere near as long as the roster of offices he has held, and his one venture into international politics - Rhodesia - was an abject failure which brought him under the most savage attacks he ever had to suffer.

Harold Wilson has said of Goodman: "He has helped the system to work when it wasn't working." That is as good a summing-up as any of the man as he reaches his seventieth birthday.

Gerald Kaufman

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton

Photograph by Snowden

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## An Easy chair for the Prof

"What is an easy chair?" said Professor Trevor Scope. "In what sense can a chair be said to be easy or hard? Is there such a thing as a moderately difficult chair? What is easiness - and what is chairness? Can we even expect an easy chair to be made out of a hard wood?"

He waited for the wave of light laughter to run round the lecture room and die down. He waited in vain - there was not even a ripple. Professor Scope sighed. It was not much fun being Professor of Philosophy and Furniture Design at M4 University. The educational cuts had cut so deep that now they were not just firing people, they were combining two or more faculties under one person. He was lucky in a sense. His friend Butler had just become Professor of French Studies, Journalism and Naval History, and was being sued for libel to the tune of £500m by the Admiralty in Paris over a test paper he had set.

"Diogenes lived in a barrel, we are told," continued Scope doggedly. "Was it, I wonder, an easy barrel? Did he ever think of building on an extension? If so, did he ever have trouble with the VATman?"

Again, no laughter. Instead, to his amazement, the door burst open and a student entered shouting: "Sir, sir, it's the BBC, they're on the phone, they want you to go to London and appear on..."

By the time the student had finished his sentence, Scope was already in his old Corina and edging out on to the M4. The BBC? He moved up to 70 mph. Was this the big one? He touched 80 mph. Was fame just around the corner?

Well, not exactly, actually. The truth was that some famous furniture designer had just died and the BBC Tribute Department were putting together a tribute. What they mean by this is that they were digging out a clip from an old Michael Parkinson Show. To their disbelief they found that the bloke had never been on Parkinson, so they were grabbing the cheapest available professorist looking fellow.

"I'm appearing on a programme tonight," said Scope to the gatekeeper at TV Centre.

"We'll see about that," said the gateman. "Before I let you in, I'll need proof of identity, banker's references, letters from at least two TV stars, surety of £50..."

"It's all right," said Roger Boothby, coming from nowhere. "He's on my little prog tonight, doing a featurette."

Trevor Scope did it rather well. He was totally unafraid of the cameras, probably because he believed throughout that it was a radio interview, and finished his little chat in less than five minutes, which is the highest criterion the BBC can have. Afterwards in the hospital room, over the Twiggles and Chateau Whanham, he waxed eloquent.

"I find the whole philosophical history of furniture terribly exciting..."

"I'm the barman," said the barman.

"That's the producer over there."

"I find the whole philosophical history of furniture tremendously exciting," he told Roger Boothby. "The way the history of thought is bound up with the way people sat, and what surrounded them while they thought. Descartes, on a chair, had abstract thoughts. Newton, on a bumpy ground under an apple tree, deduced practically that..."

"You may be the man we've been looking for," said Boothby. "Our pet experts at the BBC change slower than we sometimes realize. I mean, Magnus Pyke, Patrick Moore and Arthur Negus are all still terrific value, but..."

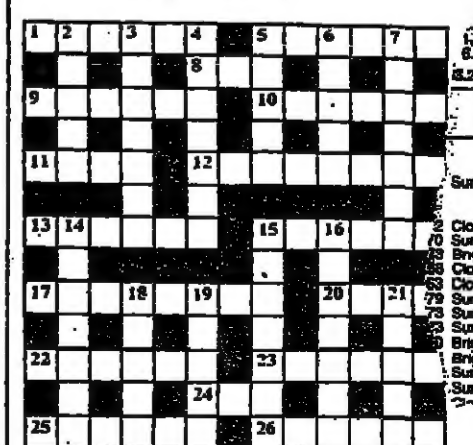
Scope, who never watched TV, had no idea what he was talking about. "...and there might even be a series in what you say. Furniture plus philosophy eh? If we could think of a title..."

The oldest joke in Scope's repertoire came to his mind.

"The Seat of Learning?" he suggested.

Boothby decided on the spot that the man was a genius and took him away to be signed up. Meanwhile, unaware that they would never see Professor Scope again, his students were still sitting scribbling in his lecture room. They were filling in job application forms.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 128)



- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS                     | DOWN                   |
| 1 Maintenance (6)          | 2 Composite (5)        |
| 5 Struggle (6)             | 3 Everlasting (7)      |
| 8 Murre (3)                | 4 Illusion (7)         |
| 9 Film theatre (6)         | 5 Grease hair (5)      |
| 10 Debating (6)            | 6 Countrylike (5)      |
| 11 Control strap (4)       | 7 Zealot (7)           |
| 12 Pattern (8)             | 14 Music master (7)    |
| 13 Symbol (6)              | 15 Hand over (7)       |
| 15 Possibly (6)            | 16 Unserviceable (7)   |
| 17 Warts (8)               | 18 Sully (5)           |
| 20 Level (4)               | 19 Crinkled cloth (5)  |
| 22 Wire fastener (6)       | 21 Legion standard (5) |
| 23 Capacity for action (6) |                        |
| 24 Golf flagpole (3)       |                        |
| 25 Cheese dip (6)          |                        |
| 26 Flavour sampler (6)     |                        |

SOLUTION TO No 127  
ACROSS: 1 Pathos 4 Desert 7 Care 8 Impudent  
9 Oddsends 12 Ohio 15 Agenda 16 Clutch  
17 Bus 19 Luscious 24 Activist 25 Jive 26 Stance  
27 Rummel  
DOWN: 1 Pick 2 Tiredness 3 Slide 4 Depot  
5 Soda 6 Ranch 11 Sully 12 Occlusion  
13 Open 14 Barb 18 Uncut 20 Unite 21 Caver  
22 Finn 23 Fell

## Reprieve for the forests

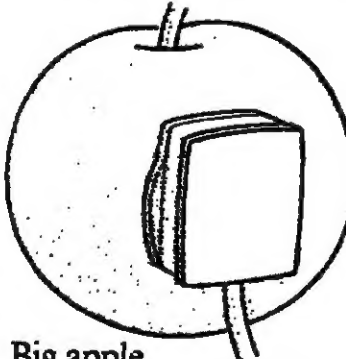


In the past, the protection of the environment has not been a priority consideration of Soviet planners. But recently, largely because of the unofficial efforts of Soviet writers and poets, major industrial projects throughout the Soviet Union which threatened the ecological balance in a particular area had either been abandoned or modified. Now, Professor Vladimir Vinogradov, head of the forestry department of the influential all-union Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, has addressed himself to the problem of simultaneously increasing timber production and preserving forests. His academy has evolved a special technique estimating the "socially-useful properties of forests in comparison with their value as resources".

He points out that the annual economic efficiency of the "sanitary, hygienic and other socially-useful functions" of forests in the Karelian Isthmus, estimated at 540 million roubles, is much higher than their timber value.

### CORRECTION

In the Findings column of July 4 a caption to a section of Hollar's panorama identified it as including the second Globe theatre. Hollar is thought to have mistakenly identified the wrong building.



### Big apple

A generator which uses apples or potatoes as a source of electricity has been successfully tested by scientists at the Kharkov physical-engineering institute of low temperatures of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. All you need to do is to insert two minute electrodes into an apple (or potato), the electrolyte, and you get current in a circuit. Admittedly, its voltage is equally minute; only tens of millivolts. But now, the new generator comes into its own. It not only takes up this energy but amplifies it thousands of times. The Ukrainian researchers say that a single apple will provide electricity for nearly a month. They are confident their generator will gain wide application in those parts of the Soviet Union where it is impracticable or impossible to use traditional power sources.

### Germ of an idea

Because Soviet agriculture has never been able to satisfy the needs of the Soviet people, it is not surprising that a great deal of its scientific research is devoted to increasing harvest yields. Some time ago Vladimir Shevchenko,

## FINDINGS

A series reporting on research  
SOVIET SCIENCE

head of the plant-growing department at the Voroshevolgrad agricultural institute, noticed that the germs of wheat grains differed in form. He decided to check whether that had any effect on their yield. Test-tube experiments in the laboratory showed that seeds of the same variety but with different types of germ grow and develop differently. Shevchenko selected seven types of germ from hundreds of thousands of wheat grains and planted them in experimental plots. He then graded their productivity ratio from 100 downwards.

Now, to determine the yielding capacity of wheat seeds all that is needed is to sample a consignment of seeds and analyse it according to germ types. A simple mathematical calculation will establish the estimated yield of the consignment. By rejecting seeds with unproductive type of germs Shevchenko claims future harvests can be increased by as much as 25 per cent.

### Boring up

Soviet researchers have developed an artificial bone which can temporarily replace real bones. To make it they take a mixture of gelatine, mineral salts and other undisclosed substances with immuno-biological properties and pour it into special moulds. The

mixture is then treated ultrasonically to give it the correct texture. Experiments with rabbits have shown that the new substance is not rejected by the animal after an operation. The artificial bone is used to "mend" the animal's injured bones which ultimately grow together. Later, the artificial bone dissolves, which makes it unnecessary to remove it surgically, avoiding a painful operation. The researchers claim that the new material, which they have patented, lends itself to the making of different transplants both for whole bones and joints and individual parts.

Although the artificial bone has not yet been tried out on human beings, its developers are confident of a great potential in future surgery.

### Power boost

As the first solar power station is nearing completion in the Crimea, plans are afoot to build the world's largest solar power station in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which enjoys more than 3,000 sun hours a year. The difference between the same as the Soviet Union's first nuclear power station at Obninsk, built in the 1950s. The Uzbek one is a compound solar and natural-gas burning electric power



### Mammoth task

The comparatively new science of spore and pollen analysis is being used in the Soviet Union to unravel the mystery of the mammoth's diet. For some time scientists have known that pollen found in peat deposits, in coal or oil and even in icebergs bears silent witness to events long past, provided that a key can be found to unlock its secret. Soviet scientists have taken the pollen from the stomachs of dead mammoths and studied it. They have come to the conclusion that the standard diet of the

mammoth was sedge, ferns, mosses and cereals.

Another group of Soviet scientists believes that the mammoth perished because it hibernated during the winter. Even when there was not enough snow to cover them up and blanket them against the cold, mammoths still fell asleep, and simply froze to death.

Admittedly this explanation is still a hypothesis. Researchers now want to carry out biochemical analyses of mammoth blood to establish the presence of glycerine, a characteristic of all hibernating animals.

### Light Jacket

A new jacket to protect workers who have to repair equipment in high voltage areas has been designed in the Soviet Union. Made from a special current-conducting material, its back, sleeves and sides are lined with flexible shunt wire. The complete uniform includes a pair of gloves, boots and a helmet with a special device that gives an audible signal as the electrician enters a danger zone.

Andrew Wiseman



BOOKS

Lebanon: new perspectives on an old war  
Terrorism and truth

Lebanon

The Fractured Country  
By David Gilmour  
(Martin Robertson, £9.95)

The state of books on Lebanon, stimulated by last year's war, continues. This one by David Gilmour is perhaps the best yet. Not for its account of that war, which occupies only the last chapter and contains nothing that has not already appeared elsewhere, but for its well written and clearly organized account of the background to the conflict.

Gilmour wrote the book, he tells us, "to try to counter what is in danger of becoming the official version of the Lebanese tragedy" - apparently on the strength of letters to *The Times* and other papers from apologists for Israel or for the Lebanese Phalangists. According to this, "the Lebanese civil war (ie that of 1975-76) was not really a civil war at all but a war forced upon the Lebanese by the activities of the Palestine Liberation Organization". In that war the "Lebanese Forces" (ie the Phalangists and their

allies) were only able to "liberate" a small part of the country from the Palestinian yoke. There they remained beleaguered until, in 1982, Israel came to their rescue. Like all good myths, that version contains a grain of truth. But only a grain, and it is just as well at this point to have a clear, short, simple book to remind us how much of the truth that version leaves out. That the PLO caused a lot of trouble in Lebanon no Lebanese and probably few Palestinians would now deny. Certainly David Gilmour does not, though he does also remind us that between 1949 and 1967 the Palestinian refugees were hardly the honoured guests in Lebanon that Lebanese propaganda likes to maintain. Most of them were kept in overcrowded, disease-ridden camps and many had to work for Lebanese employers at very low wages on a daily basis because the authorities would not give them work permits. Frequently they were mocked and humiliated by the local inhabitants, like the Beirut street entertainer who told his monkey to show the crowd "how a Palestinian picks up his

food rations". That does not justify the later behaviour of the Palestinian guerrillas who wandered round Beirut armed and in uniform, stopped Lebanese citizens at illegal roadblocks in their own country, and insisted on using the south as a base for pious attacks on Israel which brought down devastating retaliation. But Lebanon could have dealt with that, as other Arab states did, if there had been anything like a consensus among the Lebanese - if indeed there had been a state capable of dealing and pursuing a national interest. The Lebanese, unable to settle their internal differences, have constantly looked to outsiders to come to their aid. Some even now are looking to Israel to throw the Syrians out, while others are quite prepared to work with Syria to sabotage the Israeli-Lebanese withdrawal agreement. Too few Lebanese, and too late, have realised that foreigners intervene in Lebanon for their own purposes, rather than to pull Lebanese chestnuts out of the fire.

Edward Mortimer

Anger and compassion

God Cried  
By Tony Clifton and Catherine Leroy  
(Quartet, £15)

Tony Clifton is the London bureau chief of *Newsweek*. Much of his career as a reporter has been spent in covering wars in Vietnam, Biafra, Bangladesh and the Middle East. Catherine Leroy's background as a photographer for *Life*, *Time*, and the Gamma picture agency is not dissimilar. Starting at the age of 21 in Vietnam, she has since worked in Africa, Afghanistan, Iran, and the Middle East. Both of them won awards for their coverage of the civil war in Lebanon in 1975-76.

These qualifications are important. When they endured the siege of Beirut in the summer of 1982 and when they decided to collaborate in producing this vivid account of it, neither the authors nor the illustrator of *God Cried* lacked experience as a war reporter. On the contrary, their previous experience both in Lebanon and elsewhere provided them both with a yardstick by which to measure what Mr Clifton describes as "the most savage

bombardment of a capital city since the Second World War". Those who criticize them, as they have criticized the Western press in general and the Beirut correspondent of *The Times* in particular, for one-sided reporting of the siege of Beirut, must take this into account. Moreover, what Tony Clifton and Robert Fisk and other eye-witnesses had to say about the siege was borne out by the independent report of the MacBride Commission, published earlier this year by Ithaca Press under the title *Israel in Lebanon*.

The story is not a pretty one, detailing as it does the relentless bombardment from land and air, with the most sophisticated weapons of a capital city whose civilian population was defended only by guerrilla fighters hopelessly outclassed in numbers, weapons and political support. The overwhelming majority of the casualties were civilians, since the bombardment, writes Mr Clifton, was for the most part wholly indiscriminate - a word repeatedly censored by news editors in New York. Mr Clifton returns to the charge in a passage near the end of the book in which he summarizes what he has described in detail

in earlier chapters: "In the two months of the siege the Israelis established that everyone in West Beirut was a legitimate target; they hit every part of the city, using the full range of modern weapons and showing absolutely no concern for the lives of civilians; more than anything, their obsessive shelling of camps like Sabra and Chatila showed they considered the people who lived in these areas had even less right to live than the other citizens of the city."

*God Cried* is not just an angry and compassionate record of one more battle in an apparently endless war. Mr Clifton directs his fire also at the politicians and at all those inside and outside Israel who refuse to accept that the Palestinians have a right to a homeland of their own. His conclusion is a sad one:

"I can see no sign that Israelis and Palestinians are going to stop killing one another this year. This killing will go on because the Palestinians will not get a homeland this year; it will go on until they do get one, or until there are no Palestinians left alive."

Michael Adams

Crime  
Tiny delicious jabs

Banshee  
By Margaret Millar  
(Gollancz, £6.95)

One of the great difficulties in writing crime fiction is that it has to be about crime. Nor for the most part will your everyday crime do. A crime novel has to concern itself with some major criminal event, frequently murder, and this necessary concentration on something, after all, well out of the ordinary makes it particularly difficult for the writer to achieve a high degree of

psychological credibility. Many crime authors, of course, contrive to paint their basically unimaginable accounts with a layer of credibility that lasts as long as a quick look, or a single read. But to few it is given to produce novels that are centrally concerned with a major crime and which yet on the score of the real study of character stand the test of long scrutiny. Margaret Millar is one such.

Here is the story of a delightful child (difficult enough task to create her) found killed, and the reactions of those near

to her in the isolated Southern California community where she has lived for eight happy years. And Mrs Millar eschews the neat hole in the middle of the forehead or any of the other palliatives less courageous writers might use in these circumstances. Her child is real; the manner of her violent death is real. But Mrs Millar yet contrives that there should be a mystery about this death, and that the explanation when it comes is both almost altogether unexpected and perfectly believable in terms of the real-life situations the book has put before us.

It is, I think, the sheer power of the imagination that does it. But one should add that Mrs Millar possesses other satisfying attributes: the ability to administer tiny delicious jabs for those of us who stray from the best patterns of behaviour; a gift for crafting a story, for using words to make pleasing transitions from one point to the next. There's a hell of a lot in these 200 small pages of large type.

*Exterminating Angels*, by Peter Dinklage (Deutsch, £7.95). First novel. Terrorism - seen from inside, and tailor-made to liberalise outlook. Some fine writing leads to notably tense Fenland climax.

*Eight Million Ways to Die*, by Lawrence Sanders (Hale, £8.95). Fat, smooth, literate (Heineque, whose) mystery by American not neglected here. Remarkable for telling picture of degenerating New York.

H. R. F. Keating



Bendor: that petulant face

Utterly spoilt

Bendor

The Golden Duke of Westminster  
By Leslie Field  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95)

He was nicknamed after a stallion. In this family, the Grosvenors were either inaffably dim or else possessed of a fine sense of irony; no more pointed comments could have been made on the way it came by its money and title. In the past they appear to have shown just one talent, the ability to flush out and marry heiresses. The richest English dual house founded upon the expertise of the stud farm. They gathered unto themselves a posy of other men's flowers, in particular that of a seventeenth-century money lender, and nothing but the ribbon which binds it is their own. No generals. No politicians. No acts of betrayal no damned merit anywhere. Just a Miss de Eton who brought Cheshire and a Miss Davies who went mad but bought Westminster.

People who feel wistful about the pedigree would do well to ponder the Grosvenors. Their wealth today is estimated at £300m, fenced off by lawyers and accountants. Their motto is "virtue no lineage" which is accurate enough; no family ever came by such wealth so virtuously, but then no family ever did so little for it.

The Duke was the last non-royal dukedom to be created, and came into being because the first duke was possessed of an income of £250,000 in 1874; it was presumably considered that, like J. Edgar Hoover, it was best to have him on the inside pissing out than on the outside pissing in.

Then there was the second duke, Bendor, inheriting at 20, tall, blond, athletic and quite

spoilt. There were yachts and motor cars and speed boats. Had Mr Toad been tall blond and a duke he would have behaved much as Bendor did. He was, wrote a friend, "a great Newfoundland puppy".

Politics intruded. As the Lloyd George Budget of 1909 loomed up the second duke reacted by stopping all the pensions on his estate. War came and, with a small fleet of armoured Rolls-Royce cars, he liberated a POW camp, afterwards executing the guards. He loved storms at sea and being on the move to anywhere.

He loathed his own company and there were many parties. There were five wives but no male heir. His brother-in-law Lord Beauchamp had hounded out of the country on the grounds of homosexuality; Beauchamp had three sons.

When the duke wanted a letter delivered he had a footman take it, whatever the destination. At times he could be kind; his wealth of course magnified these acts. There were many mistresses and even more boy hunts.

This is a very readable book, evoking a time before the aristocracy learnt to take its pleasures in private. Miss Field claims to have fallen in love with her subject which gives it a tension: one keeps flicking to the photographs and that petulant face. He smiles in none of them.

Byron Rogers

Zerbanoo:  
the memory  
slowly  
fades

The Times Guide to  
the House of  
Commons, June  
1983  
(Times Books, £15)

Only four months ago, as we knew from the more accurate in the street Mrs Zerbanoo Gifford, Mr Cecil Parkinson's closest challenger? Or Mr David Steel's campaign bus? We have even forgotten that the UUP retained Down North, which sounds Irish enough to stick in the ficklest memory. An insubstantial pageant faded. But here, in the Times Guide, revived and refreshed in dramatic playback.

Nobody could have got the book out sooner in this weighty and comprehensive form, a feast for psephologists, a fine emergency doorstop, a quick setter of bets on the number of elected Joneses (caught up there, only three out of the twenty-six who had a go).

The biographies are the heart of the book. All the lucky winners get them, plus photographs, useful reminders of what, e.g., Geoffrey Howe or Michael Heseltine look like. Losers for the major parties get the biography without the photograph. Losers of deposits for the most part get neither, which the keen student of the politically ambitious may regret. Their history is a blank. It would have been nice to know what drove Mr Stooks, of the Loony Monster Party (LMP), to fight for his 0.4 per cent of the vote at Bournemouth East, or Mr Barrett (0.6, Chertsey & Walton) for FAMP, Freddie's Alternative Medicine.

These omissions apart, the whole wonderful tumult comes roaring back, yes, even to notional extrapolations from the last great electoral festival of 1979, should boundary changes and the Liberal Alliance have been around at the time. And if you somehow missed reading the major manifestos four long months ago, now is your chance. What you voted for is there. Whether you will get it in the long years ahead, is something even the psephologists cannot tell.

Basil Boothroyd

Fiction  
Uncle Sam saved  
by hack

Monimbo  
By Robert Moss & Arnold de Borchgrave  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95)

The Last of Days  
By Morris Farhi  
(The Bodley Head, £7.95)

The Day Lasts More  
than a Hundred  
Years  
By Chingiz Aitmatov  
Translated by John French  
(Macdonald, £8.95)

Towards the end of *Monimbo* the World Trade Center is blown up. This is not, as might be hoped, a work of architectural criticism by someone who dislikes ridiculously tall buildings. It is part of a plot by Fidel Castro and the Russians, hatched at the Nicaraguan village of Monimbo, to sow anarchy in the United States. After the explosion a riot develops. The New York riot is more enjoyable than the protracted Miami riot which preceded it, perhaps because the district destroyed is better known. In vain Wright Washington, the moderate black leader, says: "This is not the way! We will have no truck with violence." He is shot in the shoulder. The incompetence of the politicians, the CIA, the FBI and the police, the violent character of American cities, and the tendency of the American media to believe any bad story about the American government, make us fear that the Cubans will triumph over Uncle Sam.

But Fidel and his cronies have not bargained for Robert Hockney, an investigative reporter in the heroic mould who still prefers a battered portable typewriter to a word processor. They ought to have read *The Spike*, the previous story from these authors, to realise Hockney's capacity for success against the odds, even against the wet liberal journalists he is obliged to work with. But they missed the message. They probably took *The Spike* for a load of tedious drivel which sold in quantity because of the deceitful capitalist marketing and the debauched taste of western consumers. This over-literary view undoes them. With the aid of two or three good and intelligent Americans, among hundreds of perverse and foolish ones, Hockney starts to unravel the conspiracy, which threatens his country. He arrives at a showdown with Parodi, the drugs dealer, gun runner and double agent who murdered his wife, and we are left to wonder why the name Parodi should have appealed to the authors.

*The Last of Days* is a thriller dedicated to no fewer than twenty-one named individuals. After carefully studying this dedication for signs of Stephen Potter's influence - Potter advising a form of words so

moving that criticism would become impossible - one is obliged to recognise it as a first sign of Morris Farhi's sincerity. His book takes conventional form, but does not read as the bland production line adventure constructed with smallest loss of time and energy. It is long, 350 pages, and looks as though great pains have been taken over the multitude of characters and settings. It is about the nightmares which beset Israel and her neighbours, and the faint dream of better things to come. Abu Ismael receives word from Allah that he is Al-Mahdi, commanded to wage holy war against Israel. Calanities which surpass the Deluge are to be unleashed. Al-Mahdi devises Operation Dragons. He kidnaps a Lebanese physicist and sets about constructing an atom bomb in the Danakil Desert of Ethiopia. Faced by this peril two enemies become friends, Osman the Jordanian and Boaz the Jew. The writing is uneven, and includes odious words like "insignificant" and "on-going", but also some agreeable touches. "You deserve it," Boaz says as he pulls the Mahdi's jaw to pieces. Having heard much of this false prophet's exploits, the reader is inclined to agree.

It is difficult to read a contemporary Russian novel without considering it in a political light, but impossible to ignore it. In his foreword to *The Day Lasts More Than a Hundred Years* Chingiz Aitmatov makes doubtful noises about the Olympic Games. He criticises the Chinese government for trying to manipulate the consciousness of its people and destroy their traditions. He says: "The wish to deprive Man of his individuality has for the ancient times down to the present accompanied imperialism, imperial and hegemonic claims."

He then writes an accomplished novel about a railway worker, Yedigei, who lives with his wife at a remote junction in the Sarozek desert, is a worthy man approaching old age. He wants to ensure that his dead friend Kazanap is given a decent funeral in the traditional cemetery. A funeral procession steps out. It is stopped by a barbed wire fence surrounding a new space centre. As he leads the procession on his camel, Yedigei remembers ancient songs and folktales. He practices the prayers he will say, which even he has started to forget. He recalls a friend who was unjustly accused under Stalin and died in custody. He speaks with excellent simplicity, though sometimes slipping into Portentousness. A shallow and godless young man, representative of the space age, objects that "these are all old legends". But Aitmatov suggests that space travel has not led to an improvement in humanity, and that in forgetting his past Man becomes not merely worse, but a slave.

Andrew Gimson.

Obsession and the art of criticism

A Mania For  
Sentences  
By D. J. Enright  
(Chatto & Windus, £13.50)

To say that D. J. Enright's criticism is good-tempered may suggest, in this country, that it is amiably gentle, which it is not. His reviews are not primarily designed to display his superior wit, though they are very witty. He prefers praising intelligence and ingenuity to cutting writers down to size. He does not construct small pantheons and exclude people from them with regretful pleasure. He enjoys a wide range of good books and can tell us intelligently why, which is why his essays read so well between hard covers.

This volume covers German, French, Chinese, English and American. He is good at showing both the quiddity and the largeness of Goethe or Thomas Mann. *The Tale of Genji* or *The Good Soldier Svejk*. Among the essays on writers I particularly enjoyed

his description of the nature of Musil's intelligence, and his characterization of Flaubert's obsession with language. His title comes from a remark of Flaubert's mother: "Your mania for sentences has dried up your heart". One of the themes of Enright's criticism is that a good reader must recognize and enjoy a great writer's obsessive quality, without which neither will get far. The people he cuts down to size are simple-minded biographers who try to reduce their subject, and ungenerous critics. "Psychobiography - a practice which bears much the same relation to truth-telling as necrophilia does to love".

The brilliantly funny and judicious essays on English usage and related matters, which make up the second part of the book, are, among other things, concerned to defend the written word, exact language, against academics more interested in "social interactions", prescribing or proscribing words that offend political



D. J. Enright

beliefs, or saying that all speech and writing is equally (democratically) interesting.

He addresses himself, implicitly, to the preservation of the value of the private act of reading and writing. In a review of Dennis Donoghue he takes issue with Donoghue's view

that style can be attributed to a writer's "differing sense of the readers or lack of them". "Writers write for themselves, or for that resident reader (someone to converse with) built up over the years. Style is the man inside us."

Here the reviewer, the reader and the poet coincide. The style of Enright's poems - comic, judicious, exact, not unassuming, but not nervously self-assertive - is his own, is Enright, and is not narrowly English. It is the style of a man obsessed indeed, with a mania for sentences, who is also generous and amused. He is at ease (which is not to say lax) with English, and other languages. What struck me about the style of the reviews was his use of the judicious parenthesis. He can qualify and amplify his judgments at length, without detracting from the clarity or drive of his prose. His "resident reader" is very good company for our own.

A. S. Byatt

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Ranji: Prince of  
Cricketers

By Alan Ross  
(Collins, £10.95)

Every schoolboy knows that Ranjitsinhji was one of the great cricketers, an exotic figure from a past age like W. G. Grace or C. B. Fry. Very few schoolboys and not many others know much more about a man who was not only the star attraction on the cricket field during a decade or more around the turn of the century, but also an enlightened ruler of his small princedom in Gujarat in the north-west of India and who represented India at the League of Nations in Geneva from its first assembly in 1920 to 1922.

As a lover of the gentlemanly pursuits of hunting, shooting and fishing, racing and fast cars, his image

could be that of one who dabbled in cricket before returning to India to do a bit of ruling. Not at all. He applied himself devotedly to cricket over many seasons, analysed his technique and even wrote a sort of text book, *The Jubilee Book of Cricket*. At Cambridge, when he was 21, Ranji's long net practices prompted the Cambridge captain Stanley Jackson, to ask whether he was overdoing it. Ranji replied: "I find I am all right for half an hour but I cannot last. I must now master endurance." Almost Boycottian in his dedication.

The result was a flowering of instinctive talent that brought 72 first class centuries between 1895 and 1912, including 13 double centuries - five of them in 1900. He hit a century on his debut for Sussex in 1895, a century on his debut for England against Australia in 1896, made 10 centuries in 1896 and 11 in 1900, and scored more than 3,000 runs in a season in 1899 and 1900. He

scored them quickly too, at about a run a minute. Until now, Ranji has been the subject of but one biography, by Roland Wild in 1934, the year after his death at the age of 60, which concentrates largely on his life and work in India. It is wholly appropriate that the second biography of this most elegant of cricketers should be written by Alan Ross, one of the most elegant of cricket writers, who was born in India and brought up in Sussex.

Ranji, whose inheritance by his title His Highness Shri Ranjitsinhji Vibhaji Maharajah Jam Sahab of Nawangar, is impossibly complicated, was educated at Rajkumar College, a school for the sons of princes, and left it for Cambridge an accomplished all-round athlete in the British tradition. All his cricket indeed was English-bred and played in England; at the time there was no such thing as Indian cricket at Test level. But his lack of help

for Indian cricket later puzzled and upset some of his fellow Indians. Of his glittering career, Ross calls on his contemporaries to describe him. "Ranji was the most brilliant figure in what, I believe, was cricket's most brilliant period," said G. L. Jessop, while to Neville Cardus he was "the midsummer night's dream of cricket."

In his delightful book, Ross tells of Ranji's parrot Popsy, acquired at Cambridge when reputedly in its 50s, and which outlived him; of Ranji's introduction of the motor car to Connemara; of his loss of an eye during a shoot; and of his later comeback to cricket - a failure - in 1920.

The account of his years as ruler and work for his people is important, and shows the side of Ranji that is less well known, but it is his gracing of the cricket stage that is the main cause for this celebration.

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Dock brief

Nigel Brookes has landed in the Lions' Den. The London Docklands Development Corporation, of which Brookes is chairman, is to sponsor Millwall football club, the docklands' team whose supporters' violent enthusiasm has, in the past, provoked outraged demands that the club be closed down permanently in the interests of public safety. The corporation is to stake Millwall, whose Lions are a little tamer these days, with £15,000 to wear LDDC shirts (not to buy bigger boots). I do not expect to see Brookes often on the terraces. In his autobiography he says he learned to hate sport at Stowe, and has not changed his mind since.

## Ill feeling

The new medical correspondent of the *Daily Mail* is John Illman. Journalists on the paper regard the fact that he has replaced a reporter who has been doing the job for some two years, and is himself an Open University lecturer, as a rather sick joke.

● The brochure for the Genting Highlands holiday complex in Malaya says: "If excitement is what you are looking for, have a little flutter at the Casino de Genting." They are not kidding. The games the brochure suggests "for a few hours fun" start with "Russian Roulette".

## Royal gesture

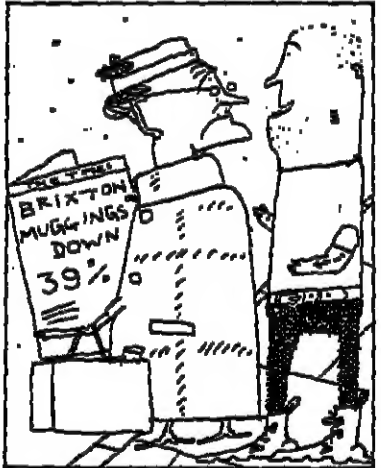
Royalty does not as a rule open supermarkets, at least not in this country, but Princess Anne is making an exception for Harrods. The Princess will open extensions to the food halls on October 4. These will add about one third to the area and enable Harrods to increase the self-service shelves. One royal coup the store has missed is that some painted-over tiles now being restored in the enlarged bakery hall have proved not to be Royal Doulton. Doulton, nonetheless, is trying to help identify them.

● Would-be breakfasters on the Barn Plymouth to Paddington InterCity were regaled with the following announcement: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I regret to inform you that there will be no breakfast on this train, owing to circumstances under our control."

## Idle words

Big Brother PHS is watching Penguin Books. I bought not one but two copies of Volume 1 of the *Penguin Collected Essays: Journalism and Letters of George Orwell*, only to find that, in both, large numbers of pages were printed upside down or in such a way that the beginnings or ends of sentences had to be guessed at. Penguin say most of the stock is all right. I just happened to get a couple of books that really should have been burned.

BARRY FANTONI



## Spin-off

In antiquities it pays to have the genuine article, as the Christie's cricket team proved by trouncing the Victoria & Albert Museum with seven wickets to spare. The V & A's Nicky Bird boasted of having a team with only three museum staff, the rest being ringers such as the man who once played piano for the V & A's panto (and his brother). Alas, the museum team were only able to put up the show they did after Christie's captain, Henry Wyndham, volunteered to stand in as a substitute fielder for the V & A, and ran out his colleague, Lord Poltimore.

## Space odyssey

Despite Japan's pre-eminence in miniaturization, the *Encyclopedia of Japan*, to be published this autumn by Kodansha, will be nine massive volumes, containing 3,000 pages, 10,000 entries and 3.9 million words. It will cost £400, about the same as a moderate hi-fi, but will require more shelf space.

Karl Marx has been banned from mention in the £250,000 appeal to restore Highgate Cemetery, of which he is the most famous occupant. This despite the fact that the appeal's chairman is Lord Briggs, who wrote and presented a BBC television series on Marx and was just published a book about him. Jean Pateman, secretary of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, says the appeal committee felt that any mention of Marx might frighten off donations, and adds that the Marx memorial will not need any of the money anyway, as it is already the best maintained in the cemetery. There is no denying Marx appeal. The centenary of his death brought Highgate worldwide publicity earlier this year, and was attended by 29 camera crews. On the day the Highgate Cemetery appeal was launched there was but one. PHS

# Can MacGregor deliver coal?

The leader of Britain's colliery deputies was recently in the company of the US miners' president, voicing apprehension about the impending arrival of Mr Ian MacGregor as chairman of the National Coal Board. He expected understanding and sympathy. Instead, the American union mogul asked: "Who is MacGregor?"

This true story illustrates the fundamentally different kind of coal industry that Mr MacGregor will head from September 1. In the profitable American strip mines where he had hitherto practised his entrepreneurial skills, unionization is practically unknown. In Britain, it is predominantly a deep-mining industry, and there is a *de facto* closed shop with the National Union of Mineworkers, which has often and amply demonstrated its clout.

NUM members have certainly heard of Mr MacGregor. For months now, since his transfer from the chairmanship of the British Steel Corporation was first mooted, there has been a ceaseless propaganda campaign in the union's journal conditioning them to expect the "butchery" of their industry and jobs.

The last headlines on the issue in *The Miner* read "Crunch time draws near", and for once union rhetoric matches the facts. The incoming Coal Board chairman will have to take some rapid decisions about the nature and direction of the industry which will almost certainly lead to conflict with the miners' union.

The most immediate problem is over-production. The industry's output is 118 million tonnes a year but industry consumes 10 per cent less than that figure and the market is declining steadily. Result: coal stocks heading for 60 million tonnes by the end of 1983 - more than six months' output dumped in pit yards and with big customers such as the Central Electricity Generating Board.

This excess production in turn exacerbates the position of the high-cost collieries which become less and less economic. The NCB has told the union it wants to take out 10 per cent of existing capacity - that is 11 million tonnes. After allowing for new, super-efficient capacity such as Selby coalfield coming on stream, the board is talking about 25 million tonnes of "short-life capacity" to be closed over the next five years. In round terms, that means 65,000 jobs or one third of the existing manpower.

The NUM has a policy of opposing pit closures except on grounds of total seam exhaustion, though that opposition has been blunted by the refusal of the men in two successive pithead ballots to authorize strike action against shutdowns. Instead, the union has used the industry's joint review procedure to mount constitutional opposition to the board's plans. This machinery can delay closure for up to six months and in rare cases it has actually prevented a shutdown.

The board's financial position and prospects are such that Mr MacGregor must be tempted to abolish the procedure, or bypass it and close the pits by the simple expedient of

offering money direct to the men. It is a strategy he employed with remarkable success in the steel industry, where the unions were routed.

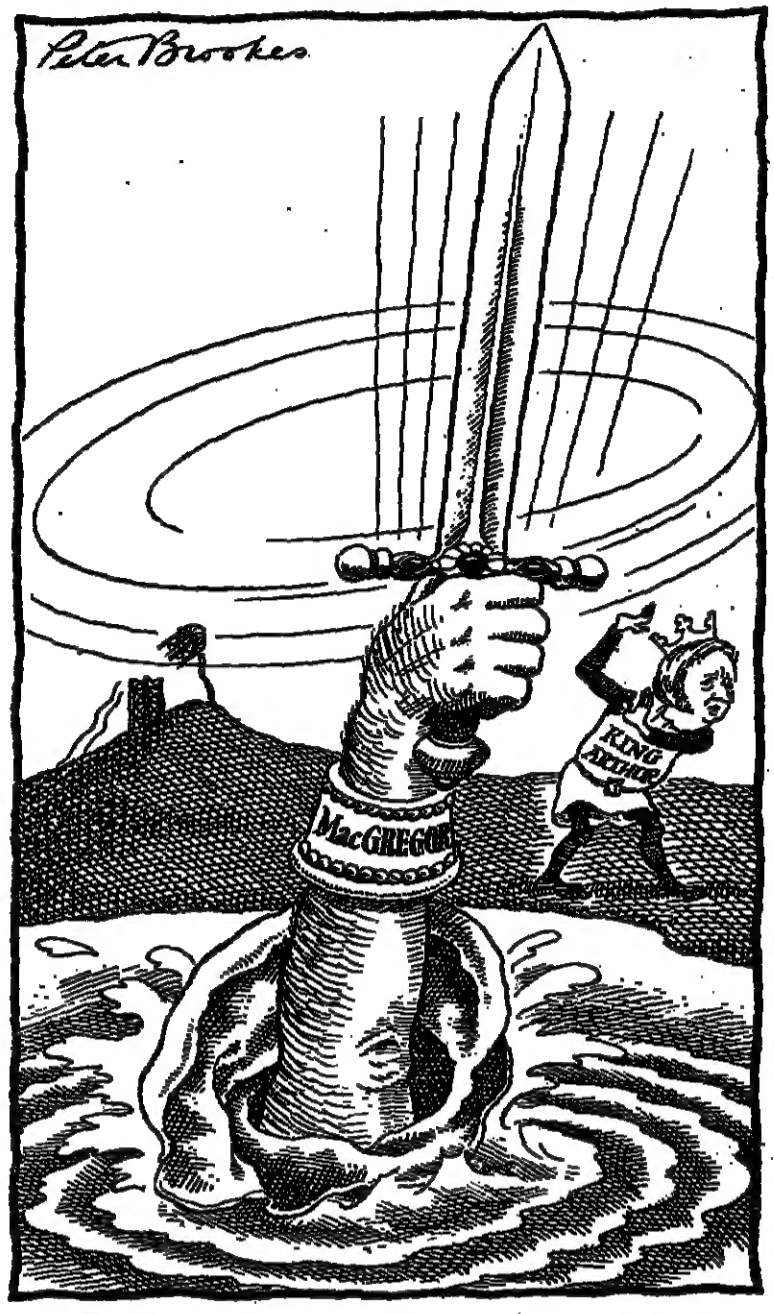
In the words of one union official, "they are queuing up for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow". After three or four decades down the pit, who can blame them? Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' left-wing president, may fulminate against the "immorality of selling jobs", but the miners have yet to be persuaded that they are doing anything wrong.

The NUM is committed by conference decision to hold yet another strike ballot over the closure issue "at the appropriate time". The union's timing will be dictated by the chairman's own handling of the situation, but the crisis is likely to come sooner rather than later. On September 13, Mr MacGregor is due to chair his first meeting of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council, which brings together unions and management. The miners, the deputies and the managers will want to know how he

intends to proceed with the inevitable "shutdown" of the industry.

Two weeks later, he will be obliged to show his hand on pay bargaining, when the board meets the NUM for talks on the union's claim for a "substantial" wage increase for 180,000 pitmen. During his time at BSC, he successfully abolished the national wage round and substituted plant bargaining. Increases in pay are tied firmly to increases in productivity. Here again, there must be a temptation to repeat the British Steel formula, even though he must be aware of the long and bitter history of the miners' struggle to achieve national pay bargaining.

This combination of challenges on pay and closures is not as daunting as it may seem at first sight. It gives Mr MacGregor a sound basis on which to approach the Cabinet for a capital reconstruction of the industry of the kind he was able to push through at BSC. If he can deliver on closures and wage discipline, the Government will look all the more favourably on a big write-off of the



## Coal: the MacGregor inheritance

Output: 118.4 million tonnes (1982-83, including open cast).  
Manpower: 202,670 men on colliery books.  
Productivity: 2.44 tonnes per manshift (up 1.8 per cent).  
Loss: £111m (after government grants including operating subsidies and social payments).  
Interest charges: £366m paid to Treasury.  
Total turnover: £4,932m.  
Borrowings: £951m.  
Capital spending: £740m (mining only).  
Wages bill: £1,926m per annum (mining only).

industry's debts, thereby freeing the NCB from an historic burden and making its financial performance altogether more attractive.

The groundwork for such an exercise has already been laid. In late June, a specialist adviser to a House of Lords sub-committee tabled a paper that has created much excitement in the Coal Board. Headed "Capital Reconstruction at the NCB", it demonstrates that British Steel's financial performance would be better than the Coal Board's had no such write-down since 1973, when £175m was written off the industry's accumulated deficit and £275m written off assets.

The document adds: "If a stage is reached when the growing burden of debt and interest makes it impossible to restore viability the Government may seek Parliament's authority for a capital reconstruction suited to the needs of the industry. Often this would form part of a wider package including closures or a plan for new investment or both. It could be expected that any government undertaking a fundamental review of the coal industry would consider an element of capital reconstruction as part of any plan for the future" (my italics).

By the standards applied at British Steel during the MacGregor reign, that stage has been reached. The Coal Board ended last year with an overall loss of £111m, after receiving a Government deficit grant of £374m and paying £366m interest on loans - 90 per cent of which went straight back to the Treasury.

The board's outgoing chairman, Sir Norman Siddall, has told the unions that in these circumstances it "cannot be right" for a small proportion of total output to run away with losses totalling £275m a year. Elimination of these pits and investment continuing at the current level of £700m a year will make viability for the smaller remaining industry an achievable aim, he adds.

Sir Norman's game plan has been "softly, softly, catcher monkey". It has succeeded to the point where no fewer than 15 pits are expected to be closed without a strike by the end of the current financial year. What the managers in the industry now expect - and fear - is that the new regime will usher in an acceleration of the closure programme and a tougher public stance that will make conflict with the NUM a certainty rather than a risk.

Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

# Scots wha' hae but no' the noo

Reports of the death of devolution in Scotland may be exaggerated. True, the Scottish question may have induced in the public consciousness all the features of catatonia before, during and since the general election. True, the Scottish Tories have nakedly abandoned their unconvincing interest in a Scottish Assembly, the Liberals have more urgent preoccupations and the SNP, perversely inspired by falling support, is going for independence or bust. But for the left in Scotland devolution now means shortening tempers and shorter holidays.

Next month, the Scottish TUC, Scottish Labour MPs and the party's Scottish executive will hold a devolution seminar - still the most popular intellectual sport in the country - to try to establish a plan for pursuing the issue in a style which will not alienate their colleagues south of the border or open new wounds in the party.

Thanks to some recent deft manoeuvring within the Scottish Labour group at Westminster, the agenda for the seminar will include extracts from what has become known as "the Foulkes paper", which means that the plan will almost certainly eschew tactics such as token strikes, disruption of House of Commons business, industrial action to deprive the Government of tax revenue, or a policy of non-cooperation between local authorities and the Scottish Office.

Saryagraha for Scotland is not yet on. At least not for the next four or

five years. (There are those among the Scottish leadership who will allow the Labour party only one more general election like the last, conscious of the features of catatonia before, during and since the general election. When the Foulkes paper, with its emphasis on parliamentary activities, was leaked to the *Glasgow Herald*, it embarrassed George Foulkes, MP for an Ayrshire constituency, as much as anyone.)

Although still prosecuting his odd claim that the Government has no mandate to govern in Scotland - on the grounds that only 21 of the 72 Scottish MPs are Conservative - Foulkes has since insisted that his discussion document contained only some long-term, last-resort notions on turning the devolutionary screw and should never have been represented as a policy blueprint.

Nevertheless, at least one trade union official was sufficiently alarmed by his suggestions to turn them loose. And despite Mr Foulkes's protests there is no doubt that some of the wilder parliamentary spirits who identify with his "no mandate" argument - Mr Dennis Canavan, for example - would not be averse to a little parliamentary disruption.

It was to avoid any such unseemliness that, just before Parliament went into recess, the Scottish Labour group's two new MPs tabled a more temperate campaign to keep the devolution issue alive.

Norman Godman and Gordon Brown, who is also chairman of the

Labour Party in Scotland, have persuaded all but one of Labour's Scottish MPs to endorse their formula, which will probably influence the shape of policies established at the September seminar and dictate the nature of the Scottish left's pursuit of devolution over the next few years.

The Brown-Godman formula is a bit like one of those patent medicines which release their properties round the clock: or in this case over the life of the present Government. Its target is not the perspective devolution of a piece of whimsy which already belongs to history, but a future Labour government.

Working, as they must, on the assumption that the next Labour Government is not also a piece of whimsy, the Scottish Labour group wants to unite the party round an agreed policy at national level and perhaps even draw up a new Assembly Bill. Brown and Godman have two other priorities: work on the English regional MPs to prevent the kind of hostility which harried previous devolution attempts, and - more delicately - to coordinate devolution support within Scotland, which means talking to "other Scottish pressure groups".

"Other Scottish pressure groups" is an evasive way of saying that Scottish parties, the Labour Party in Scotland and many of its MPs have always been a bit defensively snuffy about the devolutionary credentials of the Scottish Liberals and the SNP (both of whom arrived

at their positions at a much earlier stage) and are highly nervous about being seen in public with them.

They have even been unwilling to cooperate with any of the lobbies - sometimes pejoratively called debating societies - which have tried to keep the issue alive in Scotland, snubbing the energetic Campaign for a Scottish Assembly when it held its agenda conference last month and looking askance at the Scottish Socialist Society founded by disaffected SNP left-wingers.

If the Brown-Godman proposal can be extended to inter-party collaboration and if the idea can be sold to the Scottish executive, the STUC and any dissenting members of the Scottish Labour group in September, then they will have achieved something rare in Scotland: a coherence, perhaps only temporary, of that babble of voices which all want the same thing but want it on their own terms.

Meanwhile, the grass roots are also beginning to rustle again. A second number of resolutions on devolution has been submitted by the Scottish constituencies to the Labour Party's annual conference in October. If all or any or an amalgam of these resolutions from seven constituencies are discussed, it will be the first time the Labour Party has debated devolution since 1977.

As for the Scottish public, they may neglect and abandon the issue of self-government from time to time, but they will rarely admit that it has become moribund, beyond recall.

Julie Davidson

# The healer at odds with his faith

mistake by creating me an African, it is not yet evident.

There is no doubt that his gifts as a healer were extraordinary, and he was soon in trouble with the Pro-Nomzi in Lusaka after he discovered his powers. He is a great believer in the Charismatic movement which expresses faith frequently as emotional release. He has written of his hope "that one day the whole Catholic church and the Christian churches will be Charismatic". He makes a powerful impression on people, often in a surprisingly quiet and calming way rather than with the heightened tensions which must go with his acts of exorcism. Certainly he has gathered around him during his time of uncertainty in Rome a group of devoted people, many of them simple, who treat him almost as a saint.

There has been no official echo of newspaper stories that he had acted like a witchdoctor, though he was at times full of his interrogators thought this of him. It is also

wrong to suggest that he was kept a prisoner.

Communication with him early in his stay was made difficult, but contact gradually became easier. In the last few months his followers have filled the little chapel placed at his disposal to say Mass.

At times he himself felt that he would do his own case no good by talking to the press. But he had the mystic's way of forgetting his own way, that is a subject of concern not only to Catholics.

regard for the attitudes of the Dutch church before what he called the "unapproved prophets" were disciplined by Rome.

Arguably, Mr Milingo was not the man to be made a bishop because a post such as Lusaka calls for administrative gifts as well as spiritual ones. Yet possibly his appointment was an act of courage when Roman Catholicism was more willing to experiment than it is now. But his qualities are clear. To condemn all things African, he says, "lacks the sound judgment of Jesus". And there, in a muted form is his real challenge to authority: a plea for non-European cultures to be allowed to express Christianity in their own way, that is a subject of concern not only to Catholics.

It is true that Mr Milingo's powers as a faith healer grew after he had been appointed to his archbishopric, and it is this aspect of his work that appears to have caused the Curia the most misgivings. There is nevertheless a feeling that the organization which made him a Bishop in 1969 now has greater difficulty in understanding him because the times, and Rome itself, rather than the Archbishop, have changed.

Peter Nichols

Simon Jenkins

# The other risk in Nkomo's return

Why did Joshua Nkomo go back? Is he a Lenin, arriving at the Finland station to reap a revolutionary harvest sown by his rivals? Or is he a sadder figure, the apostle of a new African counter-revolution: yet another black leader forced into the arms of those eager for any stick to beat a Marxist regime? Or is his voyage simply a private quest, an exile's longing for home and family in old age, a plea to be left in peace?

Mr Nkomo's fate is certainly not to be left in peace. Zimbabwe is a one-party state in all but name. The internal politics of the ruling Zanu group are turbulent. Whatever the genteel fantasies of Lancaster House, Mr Robert Mugabe has problems enough with his central committee without having to cope with a "loyal opposition", let alone one rooted in dissident Matabeleland and reinforced by the presence of Mr Nkomo.

Small states passing through intense social and economic change need coherent central discipline. With this in mind, Mr Mugabe has been trying to merge Mr Nkomo's Zanu party with his Zanu party for some months. He is already torn by Africa's familiar three-way tug of war between capitalist corruption, Marxist chaos and militarist cruelty.

The choice in Zimbabwe remains either Mr Mugabe together with his economics minister, Bernard Chidzero, and some hope of an IMF-assisted stability, or the military heavy mob and chaos. Mr Nkomo is really not a factor.

Or is he? Needless to say, there is an interested observer of the goings on this week in Harare. South Africa in the past two years has drastically altered its regional stance. It no longer watches in frozen horror as the tide of black rule advances southwards. Its increasingly dominant state security council has had enough of the defensive "cocktail" diplomacy of South Africa's foreign ministry. The generals close to the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, view southern Africa not as a battleground between white and black, but as a sphere of interest in which military and economic power should be the master of politics. The Limpopo is to be an increasingly flexible frontier.

Since 1980, South Africa has been conducting a campaign of sustained adventurism north of its border. The purpose has been demonstrative rather than defensive, proof that Pretoria is fed up with verbal and physical assaults from its neighbours. The time has come, say the generals, for regional *Realpolitik*.

Angola, Mozambique and the smaller states of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland are already within this sphere of influence, and feeling its benefits or its lash. This week, while Colonel Gaddafi bombed northern Chad to the accompaniment of the western world, Mr Botha did the same to Angola. As his military advisers doubtless told him, painful states need fear no criticism. He received none.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*.

John Harris

# Calling a spade un outil de jardin

It must be nearly a century since *Times* sub-editors, faced with the word *opiates* three times in a paragraph, felt obliged to cross it out twice, substituting "delicious" or "valves" and "succulent molluscs". That sort of elegant variation is still a conditioned reflex with French journalists from *Le Monde* to *Midi-Libre* and from *France Culture* to *Radio Monte-Carlo* - in fact throughout what the French, who have all forgotten their Latin, insist on calling *les médias*.

To take one current preoccupation: in the bosom of the hexagon, the risk of the green note is causing grave anxiety.

The green note is the dollar, and the hexagon is France. A hexagon is thought to be the right shape for the country. Spain is too square, Norway too frayed at the edges, and *Angleterre* (which means Great Britain, of course) is no shape at all, besides being wholly surrounded by water - as bad as the equally shapeless and landlocked *Belgique*. The hexagon is just right, or would be if only there were a few mountains along that awkward Belgian border.

But the bosom, *le sein*, can present problems to the non-hexagonal reader and listener. *Un sein* is a breast, normally occurring as one of a pair when the French are trying to purge themselves of *franglais* (they talk of *seins nus* instead of *le topless*, and as every schoolboy knows, Etienne Carjat said in 1879 that Revolution was the male wet-nurse who, or which, suckled Gambetta at his, or her, or its virile sein).

Equally, however, it can be a wound, where the soon-to-be-born child (or revolution or bright idea) is in hiding. French ladies (this is not a subject for *le topless*) normally boast three *seins*, and if something is said to be in someone's or indeed something's *sein*, it can be simply inside, or vaguely around somewhere (as in Abraham's bosom, or the bosom of the deep).

So *au sein de l'hexagone* just means *en France*. But the chap couldn't say *en France* because he had said it already, 12 lines above.

Other possessors of one or more *seins* liable to agitation are Otan and the CEE (Nato and the EEC, hexagonalized as a gesture of independence, like *le talkie-walkie*), the Pentagon, the French international rugby team, 10 Downing Street, and the gay liberation movement.

Gold, whose price is always in the news because no one has felt safe for the last 60 years without a bag of napoleons or an ingot or two as a hedge against inflation, turns up as

Yet so front-line state inspires more uneasiness in Pretoria than Zimbabwe, the only one strong enough to pose a long-term threat. Frustrated that it cannot accuse Harare of harbouring ANC terrorists, South Africa can only stab and kick. Last December, it blew up virtually the whole of Zimbabwe's fuel stock in Beira harbour. The result was economic shambles, with Zimbabwe forced to go cap in hand to Pretoria. "Freebabe" infiltration is condoned, usually by ex-Rhodesians now enlisted in the South African defence force. And there is Zapu. Mr Nkomo and the unrest in Matabeleland.

There is no hard evidence that Zapu, or its military wing, Zlpa, is supported by Pretoria. Despite Harare propaganda, Mr Nkomo's followers did not need South Africa to supply their post-independence arms caches. Nor for that matter does Matabeleland antipathy towards Mr Mugabe require any outside stimulus.

Yet the South Africans are watching Matabeleland like hawks - or, as they grimly put it like the Israelis watch Lebanon, in northern Transvaal, there are training camps full of Zimbabweans. Some are supporters of Bishop Muzorewa, others of Mr Nkomo. Across any border will come a trickle of dissidents. The Matabeleland killings produced a flood. Even without seceding, sabotage squads or spies into Zimbabwe. South Africa knows it has a loaded pistol pointed at Mr Mugabe's head. Mr Nkomo may be a passionate anti-South African, yet he must know he is also a godsend to Pretoria.

Mr Nkomo's party lost once to Mr Mugabe's Zanu, and only a fool would suppose he will be allowed a proper second chance. Meanwhile, as Mr Mugabe continues his halting and painful advances towards a mixed economy and a multiracial society - by no means yet beyond hope - it is not Mr Nkomo whom he must chiefly fear. If it is not his own conspiring party colleagues, it is the guardians of Afrikanerdom to the south. This confrontation, between South Africa's "way forward" and that represented by the next most important state of the region, Zimbabwe, is the true ideological battleground of southern Africa.

The tragedy for Mr Nkomo is that if ever this confrontation should become a shooting match, it will be fought over his own Matabeleland. In such a confrontation, he cannot remain neutral. He and his Zlpa colleagues must side either with the hated internal enemy or the hated external one. And there are tacticians in Pretoria who are already rubbing their hands with glee. They view Mr Nkomo not as any Lenin, but as a future Colonel Haddad. For the father of free Zimbabwe, it is not a happy welcome home.

The author is political editor of *The Economist*.





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## THE SOVIET CHALLENGE

Fifteen years ago this Saturday, in August 1968, Czechs and Slovaks started in disbelief at the Soviet tanks invading their country to crush their hopes of reform and reimpose strictly orthodox Communist Party rule. There were few in the West who did not feel brutalized by that experience, in full sympathy with the people of Czechoslovakia though powerless to help; but not for long. Soon Western politicians started to describe the invasion as past history, a regrettable incident which hindered the relaxation of international tension. A decade of détente began - a strange one-sided détente in which Western countries tried to build bridges to the countries of the Soviet block with cheap credit and advanced technology, while Moscow expanded its influence at the expense of Western interests.

The crushing of the Prague Spring may now seem to Western public opinion to have occurred long ago in a far off country. Such dramatic events are fully consistent with the principles underlying Soviet foreign policy yet as the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 showed, they still catch people in the West unawares. Not even Alexander Dubcek and his colleagues were prepared for armed intervention, despite their personal knowledge of the Soviet leaders. If they, with all their experience, could not read Soviet intentions correctly, it is scarcely surprising that there is little real understanding in the West.

In a recent editorial *The Guardian* said that "the main thrust of Soviet foreign policy is towards the defence of a cordon sanitaire rather than an ideological imperialist crusade". Sadly this view has taken deep root today among journalists, academics, politicians and other opinion formers. While it does little for the peoples who find themselves inside that "cordon sanitaire", it brings comfort to those who regard any alternative interpretation as dangerous preparation for a nuclear war.

Yet those who argue that Soviet foreign policy is defensive

are accepting a view which is not held by many who are neither reactionaries nor lacking in first-hand experience of the "thrust of Soviet foreign policy": both Tito and Mao, for instance, denounced Moscow's imperialist aims and condemned the Soviet quest for world hegemony. Military training in Yugoslavia and China today is aimed principally at defence against a possible attack by the USSR. So who is protected by this "cordon sanitaire" and against what infection are they being defended? A common answer is that the Soviet people, having suffered millions of casualties in the war against Nazi Germany, quite understandably expected their government to retain a ring of buffer states against any similar attack.

This argument simply does not stand up to examination. There is no such thing as the "Soviet people". The USSR has more than a hundred different nationalities; Russians account for only half the total population but are to be found in large numbers in posts of responsibility in the once independent countries gradually subjugated by Soviet armies and now part of a Soviet empire. The Ukrainian, Baltic and Transcaucasian republics seized their independence after the 1917 revolution, but were brought under Moscow rule by force of arms, as were the Muslim lands of Soviet Central Asia. Are they also part of this "cordon sanitaire"?

Even Russians themselves do not want to be isolated from the Western way of life. Never in the history of human civilization has a government gone to such lengths to fence in its own citizens; never before has a nation lost so many of its greatest scientists, writers, artists, musicians and scholars through exile, imprisonment and execution. Russians hate war because of the death and destruction it causes. But this is no argument for buffer states merely to protect a regime that destroyed millions of lives in the terrible purges of the 1930s. Because repressive actions still form an intrinsic part of the

Soviet system, hundreds of thousands have emigrated and many more would leave if they were granted exit visas. Hundreds of ordinary people have taken incredible risks to defect when they saw an opportunity.

Moreover, with nuclear missiles which cross continents in minutes and Soviet superiority in conventional forces, the argument for buffer states is hardly convincing. After Afghanistan how many more countries will Moscow require for its "cordon sanitaire"? When only the West had atomic weapons, no attempt was made to launch an attack on the USSR. The Soviet leaders have no real grounds for believing that the West plans aggression against their territory or their peoples. Indeed, they fear the hostility of the West less than they fear the aversion of their own subject nations towards the Communist system. Hence the harsh measures applied whenever a nation in the Soviet block attempts to reassert its sovereignty.

The so-called Brezhnev doctrine is in fact an intrinsic part of Soviet foreign policy. Any country where a Moscow-style political system has been installed cannot be allowed to leave the socialist camp lest progress to world communism appear less than inevitable and the *raison d'être* of the Soviet regime itself be challenged. The invasion of Czechoslovakia was not an isolated miscalculation; it was a deliberate action in a strategy to retain and extend Moscow's brand of socialism which began with the Soviet Socialist Republics and continued with Mongolia and the "People's Democracies" of Eastern Europe. Popular strivings to assert some degree of freedom were suppressed both before and after 1968 as is demonstrated by the examples of Hungary in 1956 and Poland or Afghanistan now. On other continents too Lenin's dream is materializing in conflict and bloodshed with the help of Cuba and Vietnam; lack of success in every country where a Marxist-Leninist regime is introduced does not signify lack of purpose. Only the means are in doubt, not the intentions.

## New avenues for jobless young

From the Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission

Sir, I was concerned to read in today's *Times* (August 15) your Labour Editor expressing the view that school leavers were showing less than overwhelming interest in the Youth Training Scheme for the sole reason that at the end of June less than 22,000 young people were already on the scheme.

Although my schooldays are long distant, I can still recall that my only desire on leaving school was to have my last long summer holiday and I am sure that today's school leavers are no different.

The whole community has cooperated magnificently and all the places are now available to ensure that all our school leavers will have a year on the Youth Training Scheme. They are the ultimate judge of the attractiveness of the scheme and we will be quite content to let the figures speak for themselves in the autumn.

Yours, etc., DAVID YOUNG, Chairman, Manpower Services Commission, 166 High Holborn, WC1, August 15.

From Mr Michael Howard, QC, MP for Folkestone and Hythe (Conservative)

Sir, The gap between paying lip service to the plight of the unemployed, particularly the unemployed school leaver, and taking effective action to remedy it, sometimes widens into a chasm of such proportions that public attention must be drawn to it.

Kent County Council has put forward a proposal under the Youth Training Scheme which would provide 500 jobs for 16-year-old school leavers. It has been opposed by the local branches of five trade unions, Nalge, Nupe, GMBATU, TGWU and the AUEW. Because of this opposition, the local area board of the Manpower Services Commission has rejected the scheme.

Many youngsters who had been offered places have had to be told that these places will not now be available.

The sole ground of the unions' opposition is that, in their view, the pay which the trainees would receive is too low. In pursuance of this view they are apparently quite happy for the scheme to be wrecked. It is surely intolerable that these organisations should close this avenue of opportunity for unemployed young people, and in doing so flout the views of democratically elected government, both national and local.

The Youth Training Scheme is one of the most ambitious and imaginative proposals to have emanated from central government in recent years. It undoubtedly has an important part to play in alleviating unemployment both in the short and in the long term. It must not be obstructed by trade union intransigence.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HOWARD, House of Commons, August 15.

## Transport in London

From Mr R. G. R. Calvert

Sir, Politicians, including councillors, should never run transport; they have too many axes to grind. London Transport railways should be transferred to British Rail, to be divided between the four regional managements. The present dichotomy between rail and Underground, which has destroyed the pre-war through and equal fare, also interworking, would then disappear. A more rational system without the "terminus full stop" mentality, at present too prevalent on BR, would begin to take shape.

Buses are best left to private enterprise. Subsidies, including fuel tax rebate and low vehicle excise duty, should be withdrawn, but be available on proven need in special cases. Adequate protection should be given by very vigorous enforcement of parking restrictions.

It is a great pity that the Government has set out a White Paper rather than a Green Paper, thereby cutting short desirable public discussion.

Yours faithfully, R. G. R. CALVERT, 15 The Parade, Trump, Cornwall, August 4.

## Racism in Europe

From Mr R. Elliott Kendall

Sir, Surely many people will have been astonished at the easy manner in which discrimination has been invited on the movement of people between Britain and France, both members of the EEC. Many black people who are legally and permanently resident in Britain cannot have the same facilities as other day-trippers to France. It appears that this is to continue for the foreseeable future.

The manner in which this is becoming accepted practice indicates Europe's readiness to allow racial discrimination. It already exists in antisemitism, in second-class citizenship for migrant communities and in frequent attacks on mosques, synagogues and homes of ethnic minorities. This latest outbreak reminds us of the strong element of colour prejudice in most forms of racism.

If the countries of the EEC intend to show a civilized face to the world they need to do better than this.

Yours etc., R. ELLIOTT KENDALL, Chairman, Joint Committee Against Racism in Europe, Ecumenical Centre, 23 Av d'Auderghem, Brussels.

## Questions on definition of a mole

From Ms Lynne Amidon and others

Sir, The episode of the Cowley 13 has been widely reported and discussed in the past week. We reject the bland assurances of BL's management and the CBI that the affair has no intrinsic political implications; nor are we much comforted by the cautious formulations of the TGWU.

Of course there is room for more than one evaluation of the sacked workers' actions, on the left as elsewhere. But that is not the main issue. What should concern all socialists - indeed all sincere democrats - is the potential threat to the political freedoms of wage-earners in this country.

That this consideration is not merely alarmist is shown by the manner of most media coverage of the affair. From BBC's *Newsnight* to the Sun, the constant talk has been of "moles", "plots" and "infiltration".

This is deeply irresponsible journalism. Only compare it with the complacent coverage of the really dramatic acts of "infiltration" in recent times: a systematic series of Conservative political appointments to major industrial and financial enterprises - and notably BL's own Michael Edwards.

More seriously still, the language of these reports is that of red-baiting and spy fiction. Its effect is to suggest a new kind of "treason", political (ie socialist) infiltration of employment. As such it is an outrage, exposing who knows how many on the left to "charges" that are not only anti-democratic but also unanswerable.

How can an active socialist prove that s/he has not taken a job for ulterior political reasons? It is impossible.

We must not allow particular

judgments to distract us from the ominous implications of the Cowley affair. The danger comes not from the luckless 13 but from those who are already exploiting their misadventure to push us all in the direction of a British McCarthyism.

Yours, etc., LYNNE AMIDON, MARTYN DAY, PATRICIA HOLLAND, RALPH MILIBAND, FRANK MULLHORN, JOHN PALMER, LYNNE SEGAL, For steering committee of The Socialist Society, 9 Poland Street, W1, August 16.

From Mr F. S. Cole

Sir, The planting of agitators in industry is no new thing. During the war I was employed as a machine fitter. A new face appeared on the workshop floor - a most affable and talkative chap, who explained about the advantages accruing from joining a union.

He brought a union official to address us, and the outcome was that we all joined the union - the Transport and General. Then, as one voice on the advice of our friend, we applied for a rise, and got it, a substantial one.

I think my pay rose from £3 to about £3 15s. The 15s covered my rent and rates with a bit over.

The man then disappeared from the scene to, as he told me, "spread the gospel on pastures new". He was touring the country to infiltrate and organize union membership.

Yours etc., F. S. COLE, 111 Y.L.A., Penfold, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, August 15.

## Competing claims of body and mind

From the President of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists

Sir, There is a central feature in Professor Campbell's case (August 12) that merits further discussion. This is the usual argument of the modern establishment, that "the claims for any therapy should be subjected to scientific analysis".

One can doubt the need to validate a therapy. Neither is the word "scientific" a problem if we take it to mean the search to rationalize observations (we observe for example that many of our remedies appear to do the job assigned to them). It is the word "analysis" that defines a dogma.

The model of science we have known in the West is one that has aimed to understand nature by disintegrating it, splitting it up into parts and analysing each (a process requiring further splitting in turn). The motivation seems to have been quite simply fear of an apparently shifting and vague whole, as expressed in the overriding requirements that variables be "eliminated".

We have seen the merits of this approach in the undoubted advances of technological medicine in specific areas, but this should not obscure the irony of a profession that is traditionally concerned with the irreducible integral wholeness of the human being now creating, like Dr Frankenstein, its view of a person from bits and pieces.

For those of us still overwhelmingly beholden to the holistic viewpoint, seeing the patient as a vital whole of body, mind and spirit, the lack of research support for our case touches on wider issues than just the shortage of funds. Those who have wrestled with designing appropriate programmes have baulked repeatedly at the difficulty of saying anything meaningful about treating real people with the research options available.

We have not concluded our search for new ways of validating our therapies. However, we know that we must include the experience of the patient in our data (which means reviewing the role of researcher as well) and that we must be more concerned with inducing

relationships from simultaneous transitory and functional phenomena than with measuring and analysing the accretion of past events as material or somatic changes.

We fortunately have one precedent in the sophisticated rationalization of intensive observations of man and nature that formerly invested the subtleties of traditional medicine in China. Already today we are close to agreeing on ways to make meaningful observations of the ecological whole.

In the meantime, let us accept that analytical investigation is not the only arbiter of truth, and be grateful that your editorial attention has helped to open up the matter to wider discussion.

Yours faithfully, SIMON Y. MILLS, Director, Department of Research, The National Institute of Medical Herbalists, Netherex, Exeter, Devon, August 13.

From Mr John Garratt

Sir, The sophistry of your leading article today (August 10), "Physician heal thyself", is breathtaking.

To say of the medical establishment that "they continue to disregard the personal factor in medicine and prefer to believe that all physical states can be examined and explained objectively" and that "many more people now are coming to reject the purely scientific approach to medicine" is to ignore the fact that medicine in its long history has been an art rather than a science.

What your contributors to the series on alternative medicine call "psycho-social components of disease", in other words the circumstances of a patient's life, have always been central to diagnosis and treatment, as any general practitioner or consultant trying his best to modify what life has done or is doing to so many of his patients will wearily tell you.

Yours faithfully, JOHN GARRATT, 21 Kensington Church Street, W8, August 10.

## Tax propaganda

From Mr John Caff

Sir, I was puzzled to find that your City Editor, writing today (August 5), thinks that the Confederation of British Industry is campaigning, "somewhat belatedly", against the American system of unitary taxation.

We first became involved in trying to secure adequate protection of UK business interests from unitary taxation in 1977 during the run-up to ratification of the new UK/US Double Taxation Treaty. The head of our taxation department flew out to give evidence at hearings in California in 1979 and 1980. Throughout we have been

actively campaigning in Britain and the United States and with our sister federations in Europe and Japan.

We filed our own *amicus curiae* brief in the recent Container Corporation case in July last year. Since the latest Supreme Court decisions, pending which Federal action was effectively on ice, we have been in discussion with officials and Ministers in the UK and will continue to campaign in the interests of our members.

Yours sincerely, JOHN CAFF, Director, Economic Affairs, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, W1, August 1.

## Economics in schools

From Mr Richard Welch

Sir, I was interested to read in your paper (report, August 11) that Sir Keith Joseph wants economics taught in schools. He should come to mine. We learn through practical economics. For instance, staff know that all outings and visits are required to run at a profit.

The school photographer is chosen on the basis of commission size rather than photographic skill. The older children organize the production of their annual play, one factor in which is the need to make a profit, after I've charged them for the hire of the hall!

Although sometimes scolded for so often talking money, I do believe it important that the financial aspects of life be presented to children at quite an early age. For money rules my actions as a head. Public parsimony has ingrained within me the need constantly to think about money.

In common with many of my colleagues I find myself spending too large a proportion of my time in raising the funds necessary to provide what I believe to be a minimum level of resources for books and materials.

Since Sir Keith is so interested in economics, let me ask him how he would provide for a full education on the 5p net, per child, per school day that I receive for all their educational resources. The answer is, of course, that neither he nor any of his Cabinet colleagues could do the job properly. They must know that it can't be done but, as they don't use state schools, they don't much care anyway. At least this is how it appears.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD WELCH, President, Federation of Oxfordshire Headteacher Associations, St Andrews C.E. School, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, August 12.

## Belton House: a family plea

From Mr Peter Hoos

Sir, May I enlist your assistance in putting forward a plea to my cousin, Lord Brownlow, on the future of Belton House.

For personal reasons, which we must respect as a family, my cousin has decided not to communicate with his family regarding the sale of Belton. Therefore, may I ask the favour of your column to address him.

Some twenty years ago, my uncle, the late Lord Brownlow, entered into discussions with the National Trust regarding the possibility of the Trust taking over Belton. Unfortunately, and with considerable regret today, these plans did not materialise.

For over 350 years, the Brownlow and Cust family has enjoyed the privilege of living in one of the gems of English architecture, built in a unique setting, and containing treasured family possessions. In total it is a family story since the early seventeenth century.

The nation deserves Belton. Over those 350 years our ancestors have taken much more than we have ever given.

I would assure Lord Brownlow that his aunt and his cousins realise the problems which faced him on his father's death; that we respect his right to live where he wishes and to preserve an inheritance for his son and his son's heirs.

However, Belton is part of this country's heritage. It is with pride that the Cust family silver is on personal loan to the Prime Minister, and is used on state occasions at Downing Street. It is a tribute to a local family friend who has achieved the highest office in the land.

The great hope that makes the family believe that Belton will be looked after by the National Trust is the full and sure knowledge of Lord Brownlow's great personal generosity.

Let the British people enjoy Belton for many centuries more. And let those 350 years of the family's ancestors roar out their approval from the vaults of the church to Lord Brownlow as the saviour of Belton for their country.

I remain, yours faithfully, PETER HOOS, Mantons, Rutland, August 15.

## Mr Steel's health

From Dr L. D. Neil

Sir, As Mr David Steel's family doctor there are one or two important points I would like to make regarding his recent episode of ill-health.

Mr Steel has never suffered from a depressive illness. The present affliction, from which he is recovering, does not extend to "depression" but is known as "post-influenza asthenia". This is a medically well-known sequela - as the name suggests - of a bout of "flu". It is characterized by a general feeling of lassitude and inability to accomplish pre-flu performance levels. Fortunately this is only temporary and recovery, in a matter of weeks, is complete. Many previous sufferers from "flu" will be familiar with this course of events.

I would also like to make it clear that the speculation upon Mr Steel's condition over the past few weeks has not been the result of any inappropriate divulgence by a member of the medical profession. I would not normally make public comment on the condition of any of my patients but for the fact that Mr Steel has permitted it and that a wrongful impression requires to be righted. I have advised him to rest and recuperate, and this he is doing.

Yours faithfully, LINDSAY NEIL, Woodlands, Selkirk, August 12.

## Aggression in Chad

From Mr Louis Fitzgibbon

Sir, Despite your excellent coverage, I find it curious that none of your readers has so far uttered upon the open war of aggression which Libya is waging in Chad. It appears fashionable to relegate this friendly country to the limbo of dusty Saharan states about which only the French need be concerned.

But this war is but another manifestation of the Pact of Aden (the Libya - Ethiopia - People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Alliance) which collectively threatens Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. The Americans see this clearly and they are taking action: it would be at least seemly if we expressed some support for our allies and some sympathy for the beleaguered President Habré.

As Edmund Burke remarked: "An event has happened, upon which it is difficult to speak, and impossible to be silent."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, LOUIS FITZGIBBON, 21 Bloomsbury Place, Kemp Town, Brighton, August 12.

## Missing the point

From Mr John Bennett

Sir, Like Mr Yorke (August 9) I have noticed many new opportunities afforded by the absence of punctuation on signs. Many farms in the home counties now offer the chance to "Pick your own car park".

In truth, the comma has merely been reemployed as an apostrophe. For example, at Glasgow Central station a list (without commas) of stations served includes Milton Keynes.

Yours faithfully, JOHN BENNETT, 97 Woodlands Avenue, Wansstead, E11, August 9.

## MAESTRO AMONG MOLE-CATCHERS

Whatever the final outcome of the Cowley Affair, this will have been a benchmark week for British Leyland. Just as the early success of its make-or-buy model, the Maestro, was confirmed - the only worry is that the company cannot shift sufficient metal to the showrooms - BL, its paymaster, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the army of BL-watchers at large, have been uncomfortably reminded of BL's industrial sickness in the 1960s and 1970s with the unearthing of what looked like a concerted attempt to re-create those conditions at its Oxford plant. The only difference this time is that it is the management, not the activists, who are showing more muscle.

BL management was able to dismiss the Cowley "13" not because of their alleged Trotskyist connexions but because, according to the company, their job applications contained falsehoods. The questions remain: could BL have removed them for their political beliefs alone without precipitating protest and action? Would the company have even tried, falsehoods or no, in the industrial climate of the 1970s when the workforce seemed ever ready to down tools at the bidding of Mr Derek Robinson at Longbridge and Mr Alan Thornett at Cowley, two far-left trade union activists since sacked? The answer to the second question is almost certainly "no": the answer to the first is not so clear-cut.

If the Stock Market is any guide, boosting the Maestro and disinterring the moles has given a significant fillip to BL in the run-up to what promises to be the first significant attempt to return part of the company to the market sector. Sir Michael Edwards, widely and justifiably regarded as the chief architect of BL's turnaround, has more than once complained that the outside world never appreciated the depth of the company's struggle against a well-organized political attempt to hobble its fortunes.

It is certainly gratifying to see managers managing and production lines producing. BL as a whole is now said to be breaking even, some six months ahead of target. By British standards, given the company's travails of the recent past, that represents a minor economic miracle which can only impress and please those who wish the nation to experience a lasting recovery. Conventional wisdom, almost certainly rightly, has it that Trotskyist groups such as the Socialist League (thought to be behind the Cowley 13 though some of them have denied it), do not wish the country to flourish under its present political and economic leadership.

In a free society, everybody, including ultra left wing activists, has certain implicit rights. Job applicants should be as-

essed on what they do, or are likely to do, and not on what they think. It is only when thinking and doing are both dedicated to the destruction of the smooth working of a company, that they deserve rejection.

The embattled manager, would argue that by the time bad deeds had been done it would be too late and exports, production and reputation would have been lost. The only solution, he might maintain, would be to take immense pains to avoid employing potential wreckers in the first place. There are some indications that employers have taken advantage of the recession to be more selective about whom they hire. Who can blame them?

It is fortunate for BL that the management have found evidence of irregularities that has enabled them to behave swiftly and honourably. Happily for BL and the taxpayer, the sacking of the Cowley 13 has not inspired widespread protest. On the contrary, it has been almost universally welcomed as a sign of renaissance health. In the long-run, the best protection against moles is an industrial climate in which, even if they penetrate, they will languish for lack of a following among their fellow workers. The Cowley moles were shopped by the shopfloor. The most cheering element in this week of the moles and the Maestro is that such a climate, however precariously established, is now in evidence at BL.

Job applicants should be as-

## RELIGION AND THE RATINGS

change, and must now be asking itself whether there is much point in its further existence, having been rebuffed on a matter so fundamental to its interests. The committee failed to resist the BBC's similar proposals seven years ago, however, talking too boldly about "religious standing on its own feet" in the assembly of programme schedules. That was permission for the BBC to compete as vigorously as it liked for the early Sunday evening audience, showing its own serious religious output right at the end of the evening. The corporation cannot be praised for its aggressively competitive scheduling against Credo and its ilk. Having downgraded its own religious television output, it has now forced the downgrading of its competitors' product.

Neither of the two public bodies which control the major

television networks would dare to argue that religion has no place on television. They are both slaves, however, to the doctrine that ratings are the all-important test of public wants and needs, and that what really matters is to drive the figures upwards at all cost.

There is room for debate about the style and content of religious television, and the extent to which it should be given a helping hand in attracting an audience, for instance by what is called "back to back" scheduling. There has been no such debate, however; it has been thrown into the brutal cockpit of the ratings battle, as if that was the only way to decide the issue. Neither the Independent Broadcasting Authority nor the Board of Governors of the BBC should be allowed to let the matter rest: there is a better answer.







## THE ARTS

Half a century ago, in London, Lincoln Kirstein engineered the meeting with George Balanchine which led to the founding of New York City Ballet. Now, as the company prepares for the season opening at Covent Garden on Monday, its 77-year-old general director talks to John Percival in the first interview he has ever given to the British press

## The vision that shaped a life's dance

If George Balanchine was the father of American ballet, we had better regard Lincoln Kirstein as the midwife. Approximately over six feet tall, strongly built, with a craggy head and close-trimmed grey hair, he looks in his dark business suits like a successful lawyer. Yet it was he who, 30 years ago, went backstage at the Savoy Theatre after a performance of *Les Ballets 1933* and arranged the meeting with Balanchine at which he made the mad offer to school a company in the new world, started with money from a friend that led to the choreographer's uprooting himself from Europe and making a new home where he became *plus newyorkois que les Newyorkais*.

It was not only Balanchine who found his life's work in that encounter. Kirstein, at 26, had written poems and a novel; had reviewed art, cinema, drama, literature; had helped write *Romola*; had founded a literary magazine with the unlikely title *Round & then*. He had also found time to work in a stained-glass factory and win a prize at Harvard for drawing. He seemed set for a career as a writer, and indeed has continued to publish at a rate and quality that would put many full-time writers to shame. But it is his other work, with

New York City Ballet and its predecessors, and with the School of American Ballet, that will be most gratefully remembered. "I'm called General Director but I've never directed anything," he says. It quickly becomes clear that he sees his task as making possible, as far as he can, whatever the artistic director wants. He allows himself some pride in claiming of his relationship with Balanchine: "We never had a contract, we never had a quarrel, we never had much discussion. We just got on with what had to be done."

What kind of company had he hoped for when he invited Balanchine to America? "I couldn't imagine anything other than the Diaghilev Ballet - that, and the 1933 Ballets which I had just seen in Paris and London. Their season was the last of the Diaghilev tradition. The company perhaps were not good, but the ballets were. Brecht and Weill had come to create *The Seven Deadly Sins*, with Caspar Neher for the designs. There were fine painters to design the other ballets: Tcheliatchev, two by Derain, Bérard... and there was Balanchine's choreography."

"Afterwards, Balanchine did not want to have scenery on stage that looks always the same. He came to prefer the stage to be a space simply

filled by the dancers, with its appearance varied by changing their disposition upon it. Balanchine invented the 'uniform' - the way of dressing the dancers - plain tights that was at first taken to be necessitated by poverty but is now accepted everywhere as a way of showing the dance. His achievement was that he imposed the classroom: he brought this classical tradition with him and insisted on revealing the school of classical dancing."

Although Balanchine is no longer alive, his vision will shape the London season. Nine of the 14 works to be given are his, most of the dancers were chosen by him, and he moulded their style. But Kirstein insists: "You can't freeze a vision. The company must change, will change." It is now under two Ballet Masters in Chief, Peter Martins and Jerome Robbins, and Kirstein points out the vital part Robbins played in New York City Ballet's history.

"Jerry kept the company going because, when George was ill (and he had a terrible medical history), people asked 'What would happen if he died?' and they were reassured by the thought that Jerry could take over if need be. So he made it possible to continue just by being there, and everyone assumed that he would one day take over, but time

went by and now he is understandably not so interested to be on call from class in the morning until after the night's performance for every problem that arises.

"So Peter Martins has taken on the day-to-day running of the company, and, after the tour, he will give up dancing. That was a hard decision for him, since he is an outstanding first dancer. Peter fought it, he resisted, but he has accepted it. He has to teach, to make ballets, to run our school."

"Peter is very strong. Already he has said to some people 'It's time to go, dear'. While Balanchine was ill, Peter was already taking responsibility, and he has introduced new casts into many ballets. Balanchine was always interested more in creating, and reluctant to take rehearsal time that he could spend on new works, so sometimes the same dancers performed his ballets for many years."

"Now Peter has rehearsed them with other performers, so during the London season you will be able to see several of our young dancers in important roles. Some very brilliant dancers have come from the school lately and I think you will enjoy their work."

It is noticeable that, great as past achievements are, Kirstein's mind is still turning all the time to the

present and the future. He is eager to talk about the big Schubert ballet that Peter Martins is preparing for next year, about the Balanchine Festival planned for next spring and about *The Sleeping Beauty* scheduled for premiere in 1985. "We have already made a start on it by getting Danilova to mount *Aurora's Wedding* for the School of American Ballet, and of course Balanchine had staged the Garland Waltz during our Tchaikovsky Festival."

Balanchine always had in mind that he would like to produce the complete ballet, and he spoke to Peter of his ideas. He knew exactly what he wanted, for example, for Aurora and her Prince not to be experienced first dancers. They are children at the beginning, and the ballet ends with a real wedding and they grow up. So Peter will mount it following Balanchine's ideas."

So Balanchine's influence will continue even though the company is changing. Meanwhile his old colleague is planning to bow out. "I'm 77 and won't be doing this when I'm 80. What is needed is someone to stand between Peter and the Board, to shield him from economic pressures, to make his artistic decisions possible." When Kirstein's successor is found, he will have a formidable example to live up to.



Photograph of Lincoln Kirstein by John Voss

## Theatre

## A murderously harsh reality

Macbeth  
Barbican

Like Monday night's *Ardent* of *London* now running in tandem with it, Howard Davies's *Macbeth* brings a rather bourgeois murderous couple into London from the 1882 Stratford season. There, however, the resemblance ends. In an understandable impulse to strip away the trappings of capital-lettered Evil, director and leading actor have found underneath them a lengthy comic drama from which most of the interest has dried away.

Bob Peck is a Macbeth whose ambition, far from being an Aristotelian tragic flaw, will be recognized by any advertising executive or aspiring colonel-dictator in the audience. His short padded leather jacket (costumes by Poppy Mitchell) is as much Jacobean as modern, but he rolls up the sleeves of his shirtless shirt to do the murder of Duncan and deliberately keeps Banquo's assassins waiting, by scribbling in a ledger, or what can only be described as their job interview.

As can happen with self-devised men moving fast, his urge breaks up and the passionate embrace that accompanies "Bring forth men children only" has given way as he reigns open to a revelation from emotional content, in her sleepwalking scene Lady Macbeth (Sara Kestelman) cries "To bed!" as if his inability to let love were the disease, not the symptom. Earlier she, too, has pathetically paraded the misery of success, crying "Our desire is not without content" as she walks a massive fur coat behind her.

With his salty, nasal delivery, continuously negating any sustained timbre for the big speeches, Mr Peck can conceiv-



Revulsion from emotion: Bob Peck, Sara Kestelman

trate, as he did in his superb *Enobarbus*, on mining the text for the harsh reality of each single line. It is superbly intelligent but never thrills; the problem of thrilling without conventional means remains unsolved.

In her fashionable Sassoon scrap, Mrs Kestelman similarly sacrifices one conventional production-point line after another, but the backbone of the performance is there: disintegration as she starts to live with a changed husband in this revelation that he has begged his courtiers' houses comes as a genuine shock (who shuns her company), breakdown and suicide. The sleepwalking scene, though not moving, is

arresting because so matter-of-fact: she glides quickly on, looking the prompt-side aisle seats in the eye, seeking to settle in sleep what daytime reality proves insoluble.

Too much of the supporting cast is reminiscent of a Young Vic routine for A-levelers; the shaven-headed, Wilkie (the line about their beards has to be cut, chopping up their lines between them, are a very unconvincing result of the production's rationalism. Murder may be banal but, even when Macbeth finally vomits from fear at hearing of Macduff's unnatural birth, there was little terror where we were.

Anthony Masters

## Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

When Sir William Walton died, earlier this year, there was just time to slip a half-programme of his music into the Proms by way of tribute. So on Tuesday, after the customary entrances, the stage lights dimmed and the sounds of his unaccompanied anthem "Where does the uttered music go" floated down from the gallery to vague but atmospheric effect (John Puleo conducted the BBC Singers). Then it was on with the motley, and Sir John Pritchard swept the BBC Symphony Orchestra through the affectionately vulgar Coronation March *Coronatus Imperialis*, and - most effective of these three miniatures - the tautly neo-baroque *Pasacaglia* from Walton's music for the film *War*.

For substantial Walton, we were offered the Violin Concerto of 1939 - the last great piece he wrote, some might unkindly say, though perhaps the postwar works will be in for a posthumous renaissance during the coming years.

At any rate, this Heifetz vehicle still runs well, especially when steered in overdrive by such a fine, confident soloist as Iona Brown. Radio 3 listeners may have suspected a brief breakdown in the performance, but as was doubtless explained over the air, Brown broke a string during the finale, rapidly swapped violins with the leader, and ploughed on after the briefest of disagreements as to where to restart.

Just before that point, in the *Andante* second subject, her playing had reached its most splendidly intense. Later, in the

briefest of pauses, she managed to reclaim her own violin (which seemed to have been passed around for an expert back-deck man to re-string) and gave a stunning account of the final cadenza.

The orchestra seemed on less than top form, and an unaccompanied line-up of wind principals had difficulty blending and phrasing, unanimously, I had looked forward to Pritchard tackling Elgar's First Symphony in the second half, but the same faults recurred, along with blaring, unrestrained brass that dominated every climax. The slow movement's close worked its potent magic, but too much of the rest was effective only in a rather coarse, slack way.

Nicholas Kenyon

Summer Music  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

While Alistair Anderson brought the real ethnic to the Purcell Room next door, the other half of South Bank Summer Music received folk filtered, for better and for worse, through Ravel and Bartok.

After an opera and a piano recital, it was the first real get-together of this year's festival; and the rendezvous was particularly happy in Ravel's *Chansons madécasses*, where Felicity Palmer, Sebastian Bell (flute), Christopher van Kampen (cello) and Tamas Vassary (piano) together found the perfect allusive simplicity for the veiled, suggestive settings of de Parny's Madagascan poems.

Felicity Palmer, like Ravel himself, revealed in a wonder-

fully supple vocal line that "their poetry is only a nicely finished prose" - and its vividness was always brightly lit in her sensuous tasting of word and phrase. The long, brooding crescendo of resentment and warning in "Aqua" ("Beware the whiteness of the snow on the shore") seemed a nicely timed prelude for the Coliseum's *Toussaint*, flute, cello and piano here no less tense and disturbing than the vibrant nervous undertones of tranquility in the closing "Il est doux de se coucher".

Three more soloists, Erich Gruenberg (violin), Antony Pay (clarinet) and Peter Frankl (piano), had begun the evening with a sharply defined set of Bartok's *Contrasts*, their Hungarian and Bulgarian matter denied, refracted and toyed with as if by a petulant *enfant terrible*. Frankl returned, with Vassary, for Brahms's less attention-seeking musical craving of Polish and Russian folk-poems in the *Liedchen der Walde*, with Sheila Armstrong, Felicity Palmer, Martyn Hill and Richard Jackson.

It was a strong, firm-boned performance, drawing much of its bold colour and momentum from particularly exuberant, brilliantly-wrought piano playing, which brushed aside, though never churlishly, any temptation to the arch or coy.

The party had sagged at only one point: the interval seemed an inordinately long way away during Schumann's *Andante* and Variations for two pianos, both from the local population and from further afield. Its mixture includes concerts given by foreign and Portuguese artists; and the courses which run concurrently themselves spawn informal recitals and bring students from as far away as Denmark.

What it lacks, however, is any kind of theme, even with so many anniversaries this year presenting themselves for exploitation. That, and a sense of climax as the month progresses, instead of a gradual fizzling out until the final lame-looking chamber concert at the end of August, would have helped to elevate the festival above the commonplace.

After an inauspicious fanfare in the form of the Ballet Espagnol from Madrid, who

Hilary Finch

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Sarah C. Hemming introduces Karl Kraus's enormous play *The Last Days of Mankind*, which receives its British premiere, adapted by Robert David MacDonald, on Sunday

## Imperial City uncereemoniously defrocked

"The performance of this drama is intended for a theatre on Mars. Theatregoers of this world would not be able to bear it." The opinion is not that of a critic, but of the playwright himself. Yet, despite the apparent finality of Karl Kraus's judgment on his own play, theatregoers of this world, or at least of the small but highly-populated corner of the world that is Edinburgh during the Festival, will be able to see *The Last Days of Mankind*, receiving its British premiere 61 years after its completion.

The production by the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre was chosen by the festival director, John Drummond, as one of the major events celebrating "Vienna 1900", this year's theme. However Kraus is virtually unknown in Britain and his drama treats not of Vienna in 1900 but instead thrusts a satirical spear into the mentality of First World War man. The original text demands a cast of 500 and contains 700 pages of Austrian dialect. Paradoxically, such reservations provide the reason behind the choice. The challenge of performing the drama having been met, the "anti-war" documentary discloses a portrait of Vienna rarely seen.

Kraus, professional cynic, held opinions of what might delicately be termed a firm nature, and he published them in a manner that left little doubt as to the degree of firmness with which they were held. He has been seen as a man with a suspicious number of axes to grind, wielded arbitrarily. Yet there was method in his mutilation. Kraus's intent was to expose the double standards preserved in Vienna, "that isolation cell in which one is allowed to scream". Imperial splendour disguised the city with the highest suicide and prostitution rate in Europe. Predicting that the reality behind the facade would result in the downfall of the Empire, Kraus hoped to forestall disaster by revealing the truth.

In his "anti-journal", *Die Fackel*, produced single-handedly for 40 years, he waged unrelenting war against the poets and press of his time. He believed that their abuse of language, perverting the truth in favour of ornamental expression, was indicative of the lack of moral integrity throughout Vienna. His chief weapon was satire. Even Freud came under heavy fire, as being the latest diversion from the real problems confronting the Viennese: "They have the press, they have the stock exchange, now they also have the subconscious."

Living in an anachronistic empire, inadequately equipped to cope with increasing urbanization, Kraus felt the Viennese could ill afford to ignore reality. When the outbreak of the First World War confirmed his worst predictions, Kraus took on the documentation of the war with his usual energy and sense of moral purpose. The result was *The Last Days*.

Characteristically, Kraus is



Line-drawing of Karl Kraus by Oskar Kokoschka; and Robert David MacDonald - "Kraus experts will probably be horrified"

indiscriminate in his exposure of wartime life. From battle front to bedroom, from military headquarters to the gynaeological clinic where operations are needlessly performed for the diversion of the Kaiser, human kindness is reflected with optimistic humour; expediency and ruthlessness are exposed with the sharpest edge of Kraus's incisive wit.

When the Citizens' production opens at the Assembly Hall on Sunday, their most astute critic will not be there - Kraus reserved a few particularly trenchant words for his contemporary actors: "Once the decorations were of cardboard and the actors were genuine. Now the decorations don't give rise to any doubt and the actors are of cardboard." Kraus's appreciation of the unavoidable condensation of his work might have been reserved. The trans-

lator and director Robert David MacDonald is fully aware of performing a piece "constructed out of what is already a mosaic", but feels the inevitable loss of breadth will be compensated for by the concentration missing from the longer version. MacDonald began work on translating the difficult text many years ago when a production was suggested at the National in the days of Lord Olivier. He compares the task to that of editing an anthology of verse: "Kraus experts will probably be horrified".

Given Kraus's stipulations about the performance of the drama, MacDonald may be right: any staging of the play is likely to be controversial, a fragment even more so. The counter-argument resides in the rare opportunity to see the Imperial City uncereemoniously defrocked of its finery during the time of the Great War.

## Music in Portugal

## Variations without a theme

danced a lame representation of "The World of Albeniz" in a stuffy cinema in Estoril, a bombshell abruptly descended. The festival's major visitors, the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, were prevented from coming to Lisbon for financial reasons. Fortunately the soloists booked for the festival instead agreed to give recitals instead. Margarita Lilova rescued Wagner's *Wendell's Lied* by singing the original version with piano, while the cellist Maurice Gendron, originally secured to play Brahms's Double Concerto with Tibor Varga, calmed many an irate soul with his playing of three Bach Cello Suites.

The Soloists of Sofia, a small string ensemble, arrived safely and gave a pair of concerts, in churches at Cascais and Estoril, whose hallmarks were originality of programme building. For the second evening we heard a strange concoction of Rameau, Gabrieli, Mozart and Britten's Frank Bridge Variations. Other scheduled visitors included the New York Kammermusik (three oboes and a bassoon), playing works by Schickel and Wenth as well as arrangements of older composers; the Michala

Petri Trio was a programme of trio sonatas and Franz Bruggen's Five Studies for solo recorder; the Spanish guitarist Alberto Ponce; and the American violinist Jack Glatzer, who promised an intriguing programme of sonatas by Shostakovich and Prokofiev and Stravinsky's *Duo Concertant* with his pianist Filipe de Sousa.

But musical activity in and around Lisbon is intense, at any rate in quantity, and the festival's administration rightly took the opportunity to show off some of the local talent. In the first of the Gulbenkian Orchestra's two concerts in Estoril the pianist Sequeira Costa was given little chance to make much impression with Falla's *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*. This is music that requires the subtlest, most accurate orchestral accompaniment, but here the strings lacked finesse, and ensemble and intonation both needed attention. The conductor, Leon Fleischer, had things no more under control in a suite from Handel's *Water Music* (with some dreadful horn trills) and in Bizet's Symphony, and the cinema's dry acoustic only accentuated the problems.

Discipline was also lacking in

the Festival Chamber Group's first concert. The late arrival of the conductor for the last rehearsal was not exactly encouraging, and he showed himself unable to maintain a constant sense of momentum in Bach's cantata for alto solo *L'ermite Rüh, beibeibe Seelenlust*. However the young counter-tenor soloist, Mário Marques, gave a deeply moving reading, assisted by Andrew Swinnerton's fine oboe obbligato. His voice is natural and rich (uniquely so in my experience) and he sings with a wholehearted and instinctive commitment. His London debut recital in October could be revelatory.

Meanwhile, outside the festival, at the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, Fernando Lopes-Graça's opera *Don Duendes e Fadas* had been scheduled for its first revival since its premiere here in 1970. Surprise: no performance, for unexplained "technical and artistic" reasons. Instead we heard the same composer's Overture *Gabriela Cravo e Canela* (1963) and his Sinfonia (1944), neither of which impressed either by fertility of idea or execution of design. And the playing of the Orquestra Sinf-

Television  
Sketchy  
neurosis

*Bazaar and Rummage* (BBC 1) was dominated by the performance of Frances Tomelty; she has a wonderfully demented voice, which swoops up and down like that of a peacock on heat. Here she played Gwendolene, a busy little thing who runs a self-help group for agoraphobics - although by luring them to a church hall in Acton she might have created a different kind of panic.

Agoraphobia at least makes a change from alcoholism and drug addiction, but there is less to be said for it in dramatic terms. You would need a large open space and a hand-held camera for really effective scenes. Sue Townsend, the writer, preferred to use it as a vehicle for some broad caricatures. Gwendolene who wanted to "lay hands" on everyone, Katrina who could listen to Barry Manilow all day, and Margaret who looked and sounded like an entire works outing.

The play had its moments, and was a "sympathetic" account of this condition: it was somewhat heavy-handed, however, in its *True Confession* style of psychodrama. Agoraphobia is no doubt an unpleasant and sometimes ruinous neurosis, but *Bazaar and Rummage* tried hard to look on what Gwendolene might call "the bright side". There is a whole range of complaints which might now be explored in television comedy: a party of claustrophobics trapped in a Ford Cortina, suffers from vertigo marooned on Skiddaw.

American street life, particularly that of the Bronx, is very successful on television, with that mixture of strange sights halfway between Hogarth and Diane Arbus. *The Miracle of Alvarus Avenue*, in BBC 1's *Everyman* series, was actually more elegiac in tone, with its account of a small Jewish community surviving perilously in the Bronx among drug-pushers and prostitutes. In one extraordinary scene, a service in the derelict synagogue was interrupted by a shooting outside. Only faith could survive in these ruins.

Peter Ackroyd

nica under John Neschling was execrable.

They seemed to know more of the notes in Bartok's *Bluebird's Castle*, which shared the evening. This was given by a Hungarian cast in the stark yet immensely effective production by Zoltan Horvath, with scenery - a sort of ball of mirrors - by Attila Csikos. György Melis was a ghoulish yet vulnerable Bluebird and Eszter Kovács a brave and ardent Judith. Mozart and Rossini, whose busts look down from opposite corners of the proscenium in this magnificent theatre, the epitome of Lisbon's lavish late baroque architecture, would have approved of this operatic alchemy.

Stephen Pettitt

The GLC Presents  
**WAR AND PEACE**  
At the  
Royal Festival Hall

A film by Sergei Bondarchuk  
Russian colour  
version with  
English dialogue.  
29 August 1983 at 2pm  
Admission £4.00  
Box office: 01-228 3191

GLC







## Investment and Finance

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THE TIMES

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### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 736.0  
FT 100 79.78 up 0.05  
FT All Shares 454.37 up 0.63  
Barrington USM Leaders  
Index 103.30 up 0.29  
New York Dow Jones  
Average (latest) 1,192.78 up 2.35  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones  
Index 9,010.08 down 8.99  
Hong Kong Hang Seng  
Index 1,025.13 down 12.59  
Amsterdam 151.1 down 0.10  
Sydney AO Index 679.1 down 1.70  
Frankfurt Commerzbank  
Index 948.20 down 6.60  
Brussels General Index  
131.51 up 0.34  
Paris CAC Index 131.90 up 0.70  
Zurich SKA General 282.5 down 1.50

### CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.5130 up 45 pts  
Index 85.2 up 0.2  
DM 4.00 down 0.0175  
FF 12.0175 down 0.0625  
Yen 369 up 1.75  
Dollar  
Index 127.8 down 0.9  
DM 2.6435

NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.5180  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU20.570272  
SDR20.698722

### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates  
Bank base rate 9%  
Finance houses base rate 10%  
Discount market loans week fixed 9%  
3 month interbank 9%  
Euro-currency rates  
3 month dollar 10-10 1/2  
3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4  
3 month FR 5 1/2-5 3/4  
US rates  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9%  
Treasury long bond 102.25/32-102 1/8  
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling  
Export Finance Scheme IV  
Average reference rate for interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.999 per cent.

### GOLD

London fixed (per ounce)  
am \$420.25 pm \$422.50  
close \$421.25-\$422 (2278.50-2790) down \$1  
New York latest \$422.50  
Kruggerand (per coin)  
\$434.50-\$436 (2287.25-288.25)  
Sovereigns (new)  
\$99-100 (\$25.50-26.25)  
Excludes VAT

### ANNUAL MEETINGS

AIM Group, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC2 (12.00)  
A. Cohen, 8, Waterloo Place, St James's, SW1 (noon)  
Ellenroad Mill, Westward Industrial Estate, Arkwright Street, Oldham (3.30)  
Greene, King & Sons, The Barn, Haughey Park, Haughey, Nr. Eury, St Edmunds, Suffolk (noon)  
Phillips Patents (Holdings), Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, Manchester (noon)  
Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, King James Thistle Hotel, St James Centre, Edinburgh (noon)  
Sonic, Lord Daresbury Hotel, Daresbury, Warrington, Cheshire (3.00)

### TODAY

Interim Anglo American Industrial Corp., Coralt, Hill and Smith, Johnson Group, Clearers, Phillips, Lampy (second quarter), Squire, Horn, Stenhouse Holdings, Westminster Properties (amended), Finais: F. Copson, EID-Parry (India) (18 months figures), A. and J. Geller, McKay Securities, Louis Newmark, Reliance Knitwear.  
Economic Statistics: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (July). Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries (second quarter - provisional). Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (second quarter - provisional). UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (July). London dollar and sterling certificates of deposits (July).

### NOTEBOOK

Horizon Travel, one of Britain's leading holiday companies, suffered a sharp drop in interim pretax profits from £2.9m to £2.05m. Price-cutting by competitors, higher depreciation on aircraft and a drop in interest earnings were the main factors. But Horizon has now abandoned its policy of scoring mid-season price reductions and the full-year results may not be far below last year's £14.3m.

Australian entrepreneur holds more shares than Lord Matthews

# Holmes à Court builds up 3% stake in Express newspaper group

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier and media owner who unstated Lord Grade, the film mogul, as head of ACC now owns 3 per cent of the British newspaper group Fleet Holdings.

His buying of Fleet shares in London has increased rapidly over the past month to a point where he now owns more than Lord Matthews, the group's chairman.

Fleet publishes the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Daily Star and owns the magazine group Morgan Gramplan.

Lord Matthews said last night: "With family and friends I'm totally relaxed about it anyway. I don't think he will launch a bid. It would be too expensive and he seems to be doing more in Australia at the moment."

A spokesman for Mr Holmes à Court in Perth said yesterday that he had no intention of

making a takeover bid for Fleet Holdings "at this stage."

On Monday Mr Holmes à Court launched a £2.4m takeover bid for Australia's largest company Broken Hill Pty. Australian commentators agree that his all-share bid through a small company called Wigmore is an attempt to gain gilt-edged security against future borrowings. Even a small success would mean he could negotiate AS200m (£117m) in additional credit facilities.

Mr Holmes à Court arrives in London tomorrow for business with Associated Communications, Lord Grade's former company which he bought more than 18 months ago.

It was during that time he met Lord Matthews, who headed the committee of ACC directors giving independent advice to shareholders. Lord Matthews resigned in March last year after failing to unseat



Matthews: "I don't think he will launch a bid"

Mr Holmes à Court as ACC chairman while he was still bidding for the company. Mr Holmes à Court began his bid for ACC owning less than 3 per cent and most of the shares he then held in the television-to-film company did not have votes.

Lord Matthews said: "But there is a huge difference between that company and ours. The company was in terrible trouble: ours is not. I think he is just taking a punt - he does that sort of thing."

Australian sources say one of the attractions of Fleet is its 9 per cent stake in Reuters, the news agency, which is considered selling its shares to the public to raise £1bn. Fleet's stake would be worth millions.

London analysts have been suggesting Mr Holmes à Court is unlikely to bid for Fleet itself but believes the Reuters stake would make the company attractive to someone else.

A month ago Fleet shares were about 97p. They closed down 2p last night at 122p. At that price Fleet is worth £102m on the London stock market.

It is understood that Mr Holmes à Court's interest in the Express Group - formerly the newspaper empire of Lord Beaverbrook - arose after discussions with Sir Larry Lamb, Sir Larry, editor of the Daily Express, worked for Mr Holmes à Court for a short time as editor-in-chief of his Western Mail newspaper in Perth, Australia.

Meanwhile, the Australian National Companies and Securities Commission has announced plans to discuss the proposed Wigmore offer for BHP with both companies.

## Institutions eager for £800m tap stock

By Our Financial Staff

The gilt market yesterday decided that the new £800m tap was not so expensive after all in the light of a bullish market. The issue was comfortably oversubscribed.

The change in sentiment followed Friday's good US money supply figures, which relieved fears that interest rates were set to rise.

The demand came from building societies and institutions with long-term funds, such as insurance companies and pension funds. There was little interest from private investors.

Yesterday, the Bank of England said the allotment price for the 10 per cent Treasury Convertible Stock 1986 was £97 1/4, and all allotments would be made at that price. The minimum tender price had been set at £96 1/4.

Tenders made at above the sticking price will be allotted in full. Arrangements for allotment of tenders at £97 1/4 will be announced shortly.

The tap's good reception bodes well for the market in the longer term, but it remains vulnerable to money supply

news from the US as well as a shortage of funds for investment.

Building societies were attracted by the good net yield over a year and one day. The long-term funds were attracted by the conversion option.

● The stock market laboured to another new peak yesterday as the FT 30-share index rose 3.2 points to 736. But volume was down and price rises were held to only a few pence.

The success of the tap stock did little for the gilt-edged market, where prices rarely gained more than one-eighth.

The US dollar arrived on falling in Europe as dealers continued unwinding positions built up in expectation of increases in US interest rates.

These now appear remote.

Against the pound it fell one cent to 1.5185, and losses of a similar size were noticed up against the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc. For the first time this month, the West German federal bank did not have to sell dollars to support the Deutsche mark.

## IMI sells subsidiary

By Susan Bevan

McKechie Metals, a subsidiary of McKechie Brothers, is paying £6.5m in cash for IMI's rod and wire subsidiary based in Wotton, near Birmingham.

McKechie will run the business in tandem with its own brass operations situated six miles away at Aldridge.

The deal, which is conditional on its not being referred to the Monopolies Commission, would give McKechie 40 per cent of the British industry which provides components for use in electrical installations and products, motor vehicles and locks.

The two companies, which have been discussing the deal for over a year, would otherwise

have had to contract the size of their businesses.

Considerable overcapacity has built up worldwide since 1979 owing to the recession and the replacement of brass by other metals, plastic and nylon. Capacity is generally running at about 60 per cent and despite installation of modern plant and rationalization both operations have had margins pared to about 5 per cent.

McKechie believes that with the ability to concentrate production at the most modern plant on both sites and rationalization of areas such as administration, the combined business should provide a useful addition to profits.

## Shares higher in moderate trading

New York (AP/DJ) - Share prices were moving higher again yesterday but there was little enthusiasm in the increase.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 3 1/2 in early trading.

The number of rising issues was slightly ahead of declining stocks.

Mr James Mayer, a vice-president at Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, believes the market is having difficulty making any progress. "The rest of this year and into 1984 could be volatile, depending on the dollar and interest

rate fears. If interest rates hang around current levels it will slow the economy, which is encouraging. "We are at a typical point where the easy money in this market has been used up. Some sectors which are normally early in topping out - such as building materials - may have already done so and the technology issues may not be able to fly back up after their drop. The majority of stocks will move either way gradually."

Although London brick's original £27m bid for Ibstock last December was agreed with its directors, Ibstock's chairman, Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, made clear yesterday that trading and prospects had improved so substantially since then that any renewed offer, even at a considerably higher level, would be unwelcome.

The original bid was referred because London Brick has a

## £30m John Brown deal expected

By Andrew Cornelius

John Brown is expected to agree the final details of a £30m deal to sell its gas turbine division to Hawker Siddeley today.

Senior executives from the companies meet this morning to put the final touches to the deal which will be announced before John Brown's annual meeting in London on September 9.

Problems in agreeing a price for the business, which takes into account the grim order book for gas turbines, have been overcome.

Last week staff at the John Brown Engineering gas turbine works in Clydebank were briefed on the negotiations by the two companies.

They were told that a company more broadly involved in power generation would be a more suitable parent for the gas turbine business and that Hawker Siddeley met this requirement.

But John Brown gave a warning that, although the gas turbine division would have a better future with Hawker Siddeley, there would inevitably be redundancies whether that takeover went ahead or not.

Sir John Cockney, the new chairman of John Brown, said in his annual report to shareholders published yesterday that world demand for turbine power plant was depressed for most of the 1982 financial year. This was largely caused by projects being postponed rather than by a real reduction in long-term demand.

He said that the trading year for the gas turbine division had been dominated by two factors: the interruption of the contract to supply turbines to the Siberian gas pipeline being built by the Soviet Union, and the continuing negotiations with Hawker Siddeley to sell the division.

In the year to March problems in the gas turbine division contributed to group pretax losses of £8.6m.

## Tarmac buys third company for £9m

By Jonathan Clark

Tarmac has firmly established itself as Britain's leading producer of sand and gravel with another big acquisition, by its quarrying division.

The company was already the country's leading aggregate extraction company but its market position was underpinned by its strength in stone quarrying rather than gravel pits.

Yesterday, it announced that it had bought Croxden Quarries, which has sand and gravel reserves at Cheddar in Staffordshire with reserves extending over 50 years at present rates of

extraction. The quarry is one of the largest in Britain.

The deal includes two smaller businesses in Gwynedd, North Wales. It follows Tarmac's £9.6m last week of Charlton Sand and Ballast, near Heathrow Airport, to strengthen its position in the South-east. Tarmac is believed to have paid a similar price for Croxden.

Tarmac has also bought a small concrete company in Florida to help it take advantage of the reviving construction market there.

The two British companies and the Florida business cost Tarmac £23m.

## Dutch tax evasion inquiry

The Hague (AP-Dow Jones) - Dutch financial institutions have reached an agreement in principle to allow the Finance Ministry to investigate the size of the black economy. Although most Dutch financial institutions are thought to be affected by transactions involving tax evasion, the scale of the problem is still largely unknown.

The issue was dramatized in February when members of a special tax fraud squad raided the head office of Slavenburg's Bank and confiscated documents thought to contain evidence of tax evasion. The investigation into the documents is still in progress.

"The idea is to find out how much interest income is not declared to the tax authorities," a Finance Ministry spokesman said.

## Johnson Matthey sued in US

New York (Reuters) - Mr Miro Bapic, a Swiss businessman, has sued Johnson Matthey, British bullion dealers, for \$57.5m (£28m) in an attorney for Mr Bapic said yesterday.

The suit alleges that Johnson Matthey, of London, and others conspired to prevent Mr Bapic, the principal owner of Johnson Matthey Time - a Swiss company not owned by Johnson Matthey - from reaching the world market with platinum watches and movements.

The suit names Johnson Matthey, its managing director, Mr J. E. Hughes, and Mr D. R. Dumenil, Mr John H. Luley and Mr Anthony M. B. Hart, who are officers of certain Johnson Matthey North American companies.

Others named in the suit are Rustenburg Platinum Mines of South Africa, which is Johnson Matthey's principal platinum supplier, and Rustenburg's chairman, Mr Gordon Waddell.

The suit was filed in Rhode Island District Court.

A Johnson Matthey official in London said that the company believed that the Bapic suit was ill-founded. It is responding with legal action in the US.

## Progress in Polish debt talks

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Banking Correspondent  
Talks on rescheduling Poland's 1983 debts due to commercial banks may continue in Vienna today. The negotiations are reported to be making good progress but several details have yet to be completed.

Of Poland's estimated hard currency debts of \$27bn (£17.8bn), about \$10bn is owed to western banks and the rest is guaranteed or owed directly to western governments.

Bankers are discussing proposals with Polish officials to reschedule over 10 years 95 per cent of the \$1.5bn capital due this year and to release three-fifths of the \$1.1bn interest payments due in the form of trade credits.

The stretching out of the capital repayments over 10

FOREIGN DEBT (\$bn)	Total Short-term IMF debt		
	Total	Short-term	IMF debt
Poland	27	not available	nil
Brazil	76	18.7	6.0
Venezuela	33	15.0	1.1

\*applied for

years is a significant concession to the Poles. Last year payments were extended for just over seven years.

The Vienna negotiations cover only commercial bank debts. Western governments are expected to discuss Poland's official debts again at a meeting next month.

In Latin America, Brazil is now believed to be preparing to ask creditor banks for further concessions on debt repayments. Brazilian government

ministers have said that the country will ask banks to allow it to pay only interest on its debts in 1984 and stretch out \$7.2bn of principal payments over eight years, with a three-year grace period.

A three-man commission of commercial bankers representing Brazil's main international bank creditors has arrived in Brazil for further talks on the country's future needs.

Meanwhile, bankers remain concerned over Venezuela's assertion that it plans to reschedule bank debts without agreeing to a formal economic programme with the International Monetary Fund. Bankers are adamant that agreement between Venezuela and the IMF is an essential prerequisite of any refinancing of Venezuela's short-term debts.

## French Kier abandons £100m project

By Andrew Cornelius

French Kier Holdings, the construction group, has been forced to abandon a £100m roadbuilding project in Baghdad after the breakdown of negotiations with the Iraqi government over financing the deal.

The company is now trying to pull out the 15 British civil engineers who remain in Iraq out of an initial team of 100 which began building the 21km Baghdad-Abu Ghraib expressway early in 1982.

French Kier, said yesterday that the company is also seeking damages from the Iraqi government which he claims unfairly called in £26m of advance payment and performance bonds. The bonds were lodged by French Kier and Musaid Al-Saleh and Sons, a Kuwaiti company which is an equal partner in the project.

Further damages are also being sought for the 15 per cent of the project which had been completed before the financing problems emerged in February.

The contract ran into trouble when the Iraqi government indicated that it would be unable to make foreign currency payments to the two partners.

But Mr Mott said there would be no need to change the £3.6m provision made against the Iraq contract in the 1982 accounts. French Kier hopes to retrieve its costs through the legal action which it is taking, but is, in any event, covered against unfair calling of the bonds with the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

## Offer for Ibstock cleared, but may be withdrawn

# London Brick puts bid in doubt

By Jeremy Warner

London Brick yesterday cleared from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to renew its bid for Ibstock. The London Brick/Ibstock study is the second Monopolies Commission report to be published since Mr Cecil Parkinson took over as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Last week the Commission gave Mr Alan Lewis permission to proceed with a bid for Ibstockworth Morris, the textiles group. Mr Parkinson has already said that he wishes to establish more stability in mergers policy after the series of controversial takeover decisions taken by his predecessor, Lord Cockfield.

Although London Brick's original £27m bid for Ibstock last December was agreed with its directors, Ibstock's chairman, Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, made clear yesterday that trading and prospects had improved so substantially since then that any renewed offer, even at a considerably higher level, would be unwelcome.

The original bid was referred because London Brick has a

next Wednesday when the group releases half-year results.

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Parkinson: more stable mergers policy needed

London Brick has interpreted this verdict as a blessing for any move it might make into non-fiction.

Mr Hyde-Thomson strongly that his company might be in discussions with other companies in this market. "Four companies dominate the non-fiction sector and one alternative would be to build up a separate fifth force."

The Commission's verdict would also appear to open up the possibility of a takeover bid for London Brick, which until yesterday would have qualified for virtually automatic reference by the government.

Hanson Trust and Tarmac are believed to have built up strategic stakes in London Brick but both refused to comment on their intentions.

The Monopolies Commission is studying a £1.5m bid by Hepworth Ceramic for another company in the non-fiction brick market, Steeley. One theory being canvassed in the stock market was that London Brick might try to buy Steeley's brick interests.

## Avon International Finance N.V. 10 1/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1992

Pursuant to the Fiscal and Paying Agency Agreement dated as of February 15, 1983 (the "Agreement"), among Avon International Finance N.V., a Netherlands Antilles corporation (the "Issuer"), Avon Products, Inc., a New York corporation, as Guarantor, and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal and Paying Agent, under which the Issuer's 10 1/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1992 (the "Notes") were issued, notice is hereby given that:

(a) In accordance with the terms of the Agreement, payment of the Final Installment (being 75% of the issue price of each Note), is due and payable on or after 11:00 a.m., London time, on August 15, 1983, in U.S. Dollars in immediately available funds to the main London office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York at Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, EC2R 7AE, London;

(b) No payment of the Final Installment made after August 15, 1983, will be accepted unless accompanied by a further payment representing accrued interest, plus additional interest on the amount of the Final Installment at a rate of 5% per annum, calculated from and including August 15, 1983 to but excluding the date of actual payment on the basis of a 360 day year consisting of 12 months of 30 days each;

(c) On August 29, 1983, the obligation of the Issuer to accept payments of the Final Installment shall cease; and

(d) IF PAYMENT OF THE FINAL INSTALLMENT IS NOT MADE AS AFORESAID ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 29, 1983, THE ISSUER WILL BE ENTITLED (SUBJECT TO ITS RIGHT TO ACCEPT LATER PAYMENT) TO RETAIN THE FIRST INSTALLMENT (BEING 25% OF THE ISSUE PRICE OF EACH NOTE) PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR SUCH NOTE AND WILL HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO REPAY SUCH INSTALLMENT OR TO PAY INTEREST THEREON FOR ANY PERIOD BEFORE OR AFTER AUGUST 15, 1983.

Arrangements should be made with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Brussels Office, as Operator of the Euroclear System, or CEDEL S.A. in order to assure timely payment of the Final Installment.

By: AVON INTERNATIONAL FINANCE N.V.

Dated: August 8, 1983



INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

# Horizon profits slump despite higher turnover

Yesterday's interim results from Horizon Travel, Britain's third biggest package holidays operator, are bad enough with pre-tax profits down two-thirds on a turnover up more than 8 per cent.

In the winter market, Horizon is the Number 2 company and did well last year, extra aircraft depreciations (about £300,000) aircraft hiring (about £400,000) and a drop of some £400,000 in interest earnings largely account for the slashed profits.

There are several questions overhanging performance in the second half. The depreciation factors will apparently still be with Horizon, with decisions to be made on how to finance new aircraft.

The costs faced by Horizon as its Orion airline operation do not necessarily apply with other operators which have either Intasun Leisure could face a heavier depreciation charge in real terms if only because it is bringing the more expensive 757 aircraft into operation with Air Europe. But Intasun also phases charges over a number of years, thus flattening the immediate accounts.

The other second-half factor is how Horizon is faring in

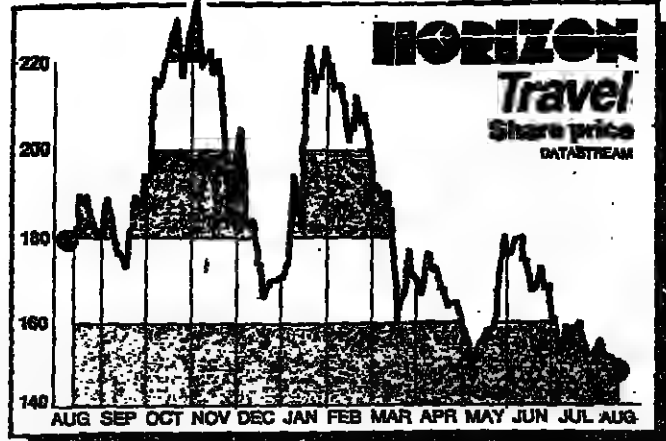
Horizon Travel  
Half-year to 31.5.83  
Pre-tax profit £704,648 (22.08m)  
Stated earnings 1.18p (2.25p)  
Turnover £43.8m (£40.45m)  
Net interim dividend 0.88p  
Share price 143p Yield 3.7  
Dividend payable 10.10.83

summer's far more price-competitive atmosphere. Horizon has always made a virtue of its no-discounting policy - reaping the reward of having the best profit margins in the industry until now - and did not join in the price-cutting prompted by Thomson Holidays re-issuing its summer brochures with lower prices.

It seems inevitable that Horizon will carry fewer summer holidaymakers. But for the coming winter, Horizon is joining in the price-cutting with a re-printed brochure offering lower prices.

The full-year result could, nevertheless, be anything between £12m and £13m, against £14.3m last time, especially as it remains to be seen how Orion has been faring with the summer volumes.

The market judgment was to mark Horizon's shares down 5p to 143.5p. Intasun has now passed the Horizon price, finishing 2p up at 151p.



## Amex-Alleghany

Having trumpeted the virtues of its \$1bn planned acquisition of the assets of Alleghany Corporation, American Express has now made an undignified withdrawal. The deal is off unless the price can be renegotiated and presumably much reduced.

American Express has given no reasons for its change of heart but it has been widely put about that a study of Alleghany has thrown up a number of problems. In particular, it has been suggested that Alleghany's computerized bookkeeping was

not up to scratch and would need millions spent on it to improve the system.

Another explanation which appears rather more convincing is that American Express has simply concluded that it was paying over the odds. The proposed price would have been nearly three times the book value and 16 times Alleghany's 1982 earnings.

This seems to have alarmed institutional shareholders worried about the short-term impact on American Express's earnings and stock price performance. The word on Wall Street is that institutional

shareholders have put considerable pressure on management to think again.

Price apart, the most interesting thing about the deal was that by taking over Alleghany's main business, Investors Diversified Services, American Express would have considerably expanded its potential market for financial services. IDS is a door-to-door selling operation.

Previously, the thrust of American Express has been at the individual top end of the market - served by the likes of Shearson and Trade Development Bank. There were already doubts whether American Express was wise to be moving into the IDS end of the market.

## Tin

After hovering at about £8,600 a tonne for four months, tin prices have come under pressure in recent days. A drop of about £100 has prompted the traditional rumours that the International Tin Agreement buffer stock has run out of cash; and on some days the manager has been inactive.

Certainly, his job has not been made easier by the fluctuations of sterling. The dramatic rise which took tin from £7,400 a tonne to £9,300

in the first three months of this year owe much to the differences between London - the biggest market - and Penang against whose Malaysian ringgit prices the buffer stock manager must measure progress.

Against that, the buffer stock would also have benefited from the increased value of its own holdings, which stood at 50,000 tonnes when the sixth ITA came into force. The notional rise in its value would have enabled the manager to buy another 8,500 tonnes.

But the fact that brokers have been prepared to lend the manager either cash or metal, points to the difficulties he has occasionally encountered. These have not been helped by widespread smuggling.

Export quotas were instrumental in changing market sentiment in the early part of the year. But smuggling of as much as 15,000 tonnes, said to be mainly from Thailand to Penang and Singapore, has compromised their effectiveness.

Nevertheless, there is evidence that the political will to sustain tin prices at their present level - comfortably midway between the ITA floor and ceiling prices - has hardened.

Adams & Gibson  
Half-year to 31.5.83  
Pre-tax profit £281,000 (£196,000)  
Turnover £15.8m (£12.5m)  
Net interim dividend 1.5p (1.25p)  
Share price 122p unchanged Yield 5.4%

Gaskell Broadloom  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Trading profit £487,000 (£298,000)  
Stated earnings 8.2p (7.1p)  
Turnover £6.4m (£5.8m)  
Net interim dividend 1p (same)  
Share price 84p up 10p Yield 8%

Scottish, English and European Textiles  
Year to 30.4.83  
Pre-tax profit £812,000 (£551,000)  
Turnover £10.5m (£10.3m)  
Net interim dividend 1p (same)  
Share price 78p up 5p Yield 8%

Glentworth Lawrence  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £82,000 (loss 222,000)  
Stated earnings 2.5p (loss 10p)  
Turnover £8.8m (£8.1m)  
Net interim dividend none (same)  
Share price 35p up 1p Yield nil

Pharos  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £1m (£521,000)  
Stated earnings 1.5p (1.25p)  
Turnover £11.5m (£10.5m)  
Net interim dividend 0.5p (1.25p)  
Share price 37p down 4p Yield 7.3%

Comben Group  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £228,000 (£21.5m)  
Stated earnings 2.84p (2.43p)  
Turnover £31.5m (£28.5m)  
Net interim dividend 1.2p (same)  
Share price 50p up 2p Yield 7.3%

T. Clarke  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £383,000 (£287,000)  
Stated earnings 1.89p (1.4p)  
Turnover £9.5m (£7.3m)  
Net interim dividend 7p (5.81p)  
Share price 37p unchanged Yield 5.9%

Midvale Travel  
Half-year to 30.6.83  
Pre-tax profit £284,000 (£416,000)  
Stated earnings 1.32p (1.31p)  
Turnover £52,000 (£52,000)  
Net interim dividend 1p (same)  
Share price 91p unchanged Yield 5.9%

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JAPANESE YEN  
SWEISS FRANK  
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75.00  
1.45  
30.91

## APPOINTMENTS

### British Home Stores names two directors

British Home Stores: Mr F H Lister and Mr N McArthur have joined the board. Mr A I Phillips has resigned as a director.

Weir Westgarth: Dr D S Ashburner has become sales and marketing director in succession to Mr E G Parke, who has retired.

Forward Trust Group: Mr A M Tucker has been appointed director of the Midlands region.

Guildhall Insurance: Mr J H Bishop will be managing director and manager of the reinsurance department from September 1. Mr A H C. Critchell will be deputy manager of the reinsurance department. He succeeds Mr E J Turner.

Harland and Wolff: Mr R A Huskisson, former chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, has become a director.

Bank Julius Baer & Co: Mr Michael J Bristow has been

appointed vice-president in the securities trading department.

Endeavour Resources: Miss Chang Lee Sian and Mr Peh Kong Wan have become directors.

Lloyds Bank International: Mr M J Olex is to be manager of the syndication department in the merchant banking division from September 1. He succeeds Mr R K Sedgwick, who will be taking up an appointment overseas later this year. Mr D G Nicoll will be deputy manager of the syndication department in succession to Mr Olex.

Pollack & Seabury Group: Mr John George has joined the main board as group sales director. Mr Richard Martin has been made managing director of Grosvenor Chater 1690 and is also to be director responsible for group marketing. Mr Chris Bevington is to take over control of group buying.

## COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	
Official prices		Rubber in 2 1/2 tonne		FUTURES	
Prices in pounds per metric ton		Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per		Monthly	
Standard contract		Standard contract		Settlement	
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## Horizons

### The Times guide to career development

### Cutting out the thrusters

**Philip Schofield: the perils of encouraging personal ambition at the expense of team spirit**

Employers expect their staff to be ambitious. They ask for it in their recruitment advertisements; at interview they ask "what do you aim for?" and the assessment "lacks ambition" is invariably unfavourable.

But what do they mean by ambition? Is it, as defined in one dictionary, an ardent desire for distinction, or is it the pursuit of excellence as defined in another? Is it the competitive spirit which drives an individual to strive for the top of the organisational pyramid, or is it the motivation to some other type of achievement?

Many individuals, employers and employees alike, perceive ambition as synonymous with competition. This view is particularly common in business organisations which have to compete in the market place to survive and prosper. Because of the need to compete externally, it is assumed that competition between individuals within the organisations is equally necessary and to be encouraged. This is often reflected in the way that promotions and salary increases stem from competing with others.

This competitive view of ambition is damaging both to the organisation and to the individual. There are few, if any, functions in an organisation which do not interact with one another. Similarly the work of each individual within a function interacts with that of colleagues. Unless their

objectives and work pace are mutually compatible, the organisation cannot function and compete efficiently.

A business, like a sports team, is a group of individuals each having a specific role and responsibilities. This does not mean that good team players become faceless cogs in a machine. There is still scope to display individual brilliance and to earn personal recognition.

The dangers of internal competition for the individual, apart from working for an inherently weak organisation, are in the unpleasant working atmosphere and in the arousal of unrealistic career expectations.

When colleagues are expected to compete with one another, individual achievements tend to be belittled by competitors; when errors occur, more energy is used to disclaim responsibility and blame a competitor than to resolving the problem. Politicians and empire builders thrive. The atmosphere is characterized by stress and mistrust.

Promotion is generally tied to the perceived level of performance. Thus the sales manager's job goes to the

salesman carrying the largest volume of sales; that of head of research and development goes to the person creating the largest number of new products or product improvements, and so on. But the sales manager's job is intrinsically different from the salesman's and requires different skills and aptitudes, and this is equally true of the R & D manager and the researcher. The high performer is given unrealistic aspirations about his suitability for promotion, and having accepted it, performs less effectively and with less job satisfaction. The organization loses its best functional performer and often gains an inadequate manager. The Peter Principle, in which individuals are promoted to their level of incompetence, operates most in organizations which encourage internal competition.

Other organizations shun internal competition and operate as a team. Ambition tends to be seen as the desire to achieve excellence within a function and the willingness to accept increasing levels of responsibility up to full potential - but not beyond it. Selection for promotion is based on effective performance in an existing job combined with the aptitude to acquire the skills necessary at the next level. In these organizations, management authority comes from recognized expertise and ability to collaborate with others rather than from a place in the hierarchy.

## Growth of the half-pint breweries

### Elisabeth Baker looks at locals serving the locals

People have long dreamed of buying their own pub. Today many dream of having their own brewery as well: all over the country tiny craft breweries are popping up at the rate of almost one a week. There are now about 150, 20 more than the larger breweries.

Former teachers, solicitors, and civil servants are among their owners - with a fair sprinkling of home brewers, lab chemists and publicans. They also include a significant nucleus of experienced brewers who have been made redundant (as with the men of the much publicised Aston Manor brewery) or wish to strike out on their own.

Small entrepreneurs like these are grist to the mill of present Government policies, so what are the chances of making a success in craft brewing?

Two obvious hurdles are finance, and, for the inexperienced, technical know-how. Finance can come from redundancy pay, bank, family or larger brewery loans - but it is best to keep personal and business finances separate in case of collapse. Technical know-how should be acquired from one of the six best known consultants in the field. These are: Peter Austin of the Ringwood Brewery, Bruell Ltd, London SW11; Chaudley Ales, London W9; John Hickey, Coldharbour Lane, SW9; Peckhams Brewery, Herefordshire; and Ian Brewing, Berkhamsted, Herts. Indeed, the inexperienced are

strongly urged to contact them at the very earliest stages of planning.

Craft breweries with their own pub outlet fare much better than those trying to break into the small and very competitive free trade. Pub breweries can pump their beer straight from cellar to bar, where cash pours in immediately, rather than having to wait for publicans to pay their bills. There are no distribution costs, either.

And, as baker turned brewer Mike Jenkinson of Doncaster points out, what's to stop anyone brewing beer and selling it through their own retail outlet? Providing they obtain a licence.

But even in pub brewing competition is growing fierce. David Bruce, owner of the successful London-based Bruce's Brewery, is finding life a lot harder now, especially with the big brewers opening brewpubs too.

"It's becoming a cut-throat business", he said. "When I started four years ago there was lots of money, but now I'm having to look to my laurels all the time. But the free trade brewers are the ones really up against it. I'll be interested to see who the survivors are in a year's time."

The choice of location is vital. The West Country now has a surfeit of small brewers, and the South-East and Midlands are well supplied. Yet north of York there are few craft breweries, especially ones with pubs. In depressed areas such as Wales, Northern Ireland, Liverpool and the North-East, financial help can be sought from the industrial development agencies.

Once the brewery is set up, tremendous personal qualities are needed to make it a success. Required reading must be Simon Hoskin's article, *Dangerous dreams*, in the July issue of CAMRA's *What's Brewing*. Here the man behind the ill-fated Tower Bridge Brewery outlines the pitfalls. He says: "Never forget that running a brewery seriously cuts into drinking time." His words are echoed by brewer Tim Chudley who adds, "One of the potential problems is drinking your own profit, and not having a sufficiently business-like attitude."

The would-be profitable small brewer must think and work hard for small initial returns. But in the words of Peter Austin, chairman of the Small Independent Brewers' Association: "If the hours remaining from the 12 you work daily are suddenly not spent worrying about money, it's such bliss, you ask no other reward."

## General Appointments

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### GREENPEACE NEEDS A FUND-RAISER

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### and we also need A SUPPORTER'S SECRETARY

...to administer our rapidly growing list of supporters. We need a capable person to process and computerise subscription applications, and to supervise our mailing lists of supporters and donors. This is a vital job for Greenpeace. Our supporters' cash keeps our ships at sea. So we are looking for an efficient new member of the Greenpeace head-office team to help us double our supporters' list by Christmas. If you would enjoy the challenge, please write to Pete Wilkinson at the above address. Closing date for applications for both posts is 31st August 1983. Please send SAE if acknowledgement is required, otherwise only short-listed applicants will be contacted.

### CLASSICAL RECORD PRODUCER

The International Classical Division of EMI Music is seeking a Record Producer to work in the field of recording International Artists, Orchestras, Instrumentalists and other related areas. The successful candidate, aged 25-30, will have a music degree or similar qualification, and will have had experience of active music making to a high degree of excellence. Fluency in languages - German, French or Italian are preferred - and a disposition towards hard work and travel is a requisite. He or she should also have a good knowledge of the gramophone catalogue and some appreciation of business methods. Applications in writing with full details of experience to: Miss Diana Chapman International Classical Division EMI MUSIC 30 Gloucester Place, London W1A 1ES

### EXPORT REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

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### OUTSTANDING ENGINEERS This ad could change your life

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### La Creme also on Page 20











